

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 18, January 19, 2017

[www.hillschurch.org](http://www.hillschurch.org)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

Stewards Open Forum  
(2017 Budget Review)  
Sunday, January 22

WHCC Annual Meeting  
Sunday, January 29

## WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2017

The members of the First Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, qualified to vote, are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at approximately 11:00 AM, immediately following the Sunday worship service, to act upon the following articles:

Article I. To choose, if necessary, a chairperson to preside over said meeting.

Article II. To hear and act upon the reports of the clerk, treasurer, auditors, Church Council, Board of Deacons, Stewards Support Board, and of such other officers and governing bodies as may be present.

Article III. To elect a moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, deacons, and such other officers and members of governing bodies as the Church may require for the ensuing year.

Article IV. To review and act upon the Budget for the Church for the coming year, as presented by the Stewards Support Board and supported by Church Council, to meet the expenses, the benevolences and any indebtedness of the Church, with funds to be raised as indicated.

Article V. To transact any other business not included in the above which may legally come before the meeting.

Richard J. Sweeting, Clerk  
8 January 2017

## THE CHURCH'S 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

To review the church's 2016 Annual Report, please either visit the church website - [hillschurch.org](http://hillschurch.org) - or [click on the links](#) provided in this document, if you are reading it electronically. Copies of the Annual Report are also available just inside each entrance to the church.

## HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET?



If you have not yet submitted your 2017 pledge, please take a minute to complete your pledge card and mail it back to the church today. Thank you.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK COLLECTION

The church is collecting children's books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center. Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children's books. At the end of February, all books collected will be donated to The Grow Clinic - where they will be given to children who are either receiving treatments at the Clinic - or waiting for a sibling who is in treatment.



This picture was taken after our donation last year.

For more information about the Clinic, visit [www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm](http://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm). Questions? Contact Donna McCabe [dmccabe4@comcast.net](mailto:dmccabe4@comcast.net)

## SUPER SUBS ARE COMING!

Sunday, February 5, Hills Church will take part in a tradition two decades in the making: putting together sub sandwiches for our Super Bowl parties and for our neighbors experiencing hunger and homelessness.

This year, the organizing team is taking on apprentices. If you're interested in a high-impact, short-commitment way to serve your church and the community, e-mail Katherine Blaisdell - [Katherine@hillschurch.org](mailto:Katherine@hillschurch.org).

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEEDS KNITTERS!

As we welcome with joy the many new babies in our midst, we need to restock our supply of baptismal blankets. These blankets are given as a symbol of the care and love that we as a congregation promise to these new members of our church family. Women's Ministry will be happy to provide you with yarn and a pattern, if you'd like to knit one (or more!) of these blankets. Contact Laurie Otten at [laurieotten50@gmail.com](mailto:laurieotten50@gmail.com).



## BEING A HILLS CHURCH GREETER IS SURE TO PUT A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!

Join a Greeter Ministry Team and greet regularly – or just once a year! It's up to you!

As a greeter, you can help us set the tone for worship, as a place where all are warmly received. The task involves being at one of the doors by 9:40 a.m., with a name tag and a welcoming smile – ready to offer handshakes and greetings to members and visitors arriving for worship. We especially LOVE children and youth greeters. Your responsibilities end when the worship hour begins.

If you would like to join the Greeting Ministry, please contact Becky Williams ([williams.becky.m@gmail.com](mailto:williams.becky.m@gmail.com)) or Jeff Thomas ([mr\\_jpt@hotmail.com](mailto:mr_jpt@hotmail.com))

## USHERING IS A GREAT WAY TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH

The mission of the Ushering Committee is to provide a staff of ushers who serve and support the Congregation before, during and after the worship service each week. To paraphrase a quote from Rev. Lacy Scott, “An usher ... is so much more than a seat finder. They are the meeters and greeters to our service ... the people who meet our guests and our members alike on a person-to-person basis when they first arrive at church. They are the ones whose smiles and warm welcomes help to set the tone for our worship.” To volunteer to usher at an upcoming service, please [CLICK ON THE FOLLOWING LINK](#) or contact Cindy Jaczko – [cindy@jaczko.com](mailto:cindy@jaczko.com).

## Adult Education at the Hills Church – Winter 2017

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

11:30 am – Reception Room – and

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

6:30 pm – Reception Room – Includes Dinner

BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT:

SYNOPTIC GOSPELS AND ACTS, PARTS 1 AND 2

*Adam Isbitsky, Seminarian Hills Church, and Rev. Pashington Obeng, Associate Minister*

The Gospels hold a special place of importance for Christians within the biblical library because they tell the story of Jesus's life and his teachings. The first three Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—contain a similar worldview and some of the same material, so they can be viewed together, or, synoptically. In this session, we will explore hypotheses as to the origins of these books and place them roughly on the first-century timeline. We will explore important features distinctive to each Gospel, such as style, authorship and audience. We will compare and contrast passages that appear in different Gospels. We will also consider Luke's second volume, known as the Acts of the Apostles/Holy Spirit, which recounts the stories of the early church. Please bring your own Bible to these sessions.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

A CONTEXT TO BETTER ENJOY THE UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

*John Finney, M.M., Director of Music Hills Church*

11:30 am – Reception Room

Join John Finney to explore the music which will be performed during the Sunday worship service on March 26. We will learn about the composer, its historical context, and anything else John deems pertinent to enhance our understanding and musical appreciation of the piece we will hear. Co-sponsored with the Music Ministry Team.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY AT THE GARDNER MUSEUM – AND LUNCH TOO!

10:15 am to 2:30 pm

Join Hills Church members for a private tour and lunch at one of Boston's favorite museums, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. We will learn about the indomitable Mrs. Gardner; her creation of this intimate museum; and her interest in religion and spirituality. Our tour will include religious works of art from different cultures and periods displayed in a unique way. We will dine at the Café starting at 11:15 in the new wing and start our tour at 12:30.

Register in advance through the Church Office. Cost, including lunch, will be \$35. We will carpool and leave the Church parking lot at 10:15.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

THE CONVERSATION PROJECT

A WORKSHOP TO GET US STARTED TALKING ABOUT DYING

*Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Advisor to Faith Communities, The Conversation Project*

11:45 am to 1:15 pm – Reception Room (lunch and childcare provided)

The Conversation Project's goal is to have everyone's wishes for care through the end of life expressed and respected. This workshop, led by the Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, will introduce participants to The Starter Kit. Through guided reflection and small group sharing, The

Starter Kit will support and motivate you to have a values-based, relationship-building conversation about an experience that touches us all. Don't wait until it's too late.

## YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### SAVE THESE DATES FOR SPRING

#### SUPER BOWL SUBS: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Wake up bright and early to make superb super bowl sub sandwiches. Meet in the Assembly Room at 8:00 a.m. Please sign up here <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-superbowl> to indicate your commitment to serve -- this is a big youth event!

#### GLOBAL GATEWAY SERVICE RETREAT: FEBRUARY 10-12

Who: Junior High School Youth (Grades 7-8)

Where: Heifer Farm, Rutland, MA

What: Global Gateway participants experience the daily struggles people in poverty face every day. Participants are given little-- just some simple ingredients -- and before they can eat, they build a fire and cook their own meal. The challenge continues on into the night as they sleep in simple housing, such as a Peruvian clay house. Participants in the two-night program gain a deeper understanding of sustainable agriculture and life on the farm by participating in evening chores and enjoying a farm dinner on their first night. By living the lessons of poverty first-hand, participants come to understand the complications surrounding hunger and poverty and see their connection in creating change that brings possibility and hope to millions around the world.

#### CONFIRMATION RETREAT: MARCH 10-11

Who: Confirmation Class

Where: Prindle Pond

What: Join with the confirmation classes of churches in Massachusetts and New England. This year's theme: "Not That Kind of Christian: Re-articulating Faith for a New Generation." The mainstream view of Christianity among young people is not very favorable. Many youth and young adults see Christians as hypocritical, judgmental, anti-gay, and out of touch with reality. At our Retreat, we will address some of those stereotypes head on about what it means in our setting to be a follower of Jesus.

#### CITY REACH SERVICE RETREAT: MARCH 24-25

Who: High School Youth (Grades 9-12)

Where: Downtown Boston

What: CityReach gives young people and adults a chance to learn about homelessness from people who have experienced it, and may be still experiencing it. At CityReach we will also participate in our ministry with poor and homeless people by offering hospitality, food, and clothing to guests on Saturday morning inside the church and/or outside in downtown Boston as a street outreach team.

#### HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT: APRIL 28-30

Who: Grades 9-12

Where: TBA

What: Hills Church Olympics, sardines, great food, and music.

## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 19

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, January 20

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 21

9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion Group

SUNDAY, January 22

8:30 a.m. Membership Class II

9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Community Hour

11:30 a.m. Stewards Open Forum - 2017 Budget

11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class

11:30 a.m. Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 23

7:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations

TUESDAY, January 24

6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers

WEDNESDAY, January 25

11:00 a.m. North Hill Worship Service

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 26

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 9:1-4

Matthew 4:12-17

### HILLS CHURCH PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Need to spread the word about an activity or event?

Email your notice to Cynthia Gordan, Church Administrator,  
at [cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org), or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

Weekly Newsletters

Sunday Orders of Worship

Submissions are due Fridays by 5:00 p.m.

Submissions are due Monday by 5:00 p.m.

## PARISH REGISTER

Prayers of sympathy and comfort for:

Harold and Alice Wilkinson on the death of Harold's brother, Charles Wilkinson, M.D., in North Carolina.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

June Anton's father, Carl Kuniholm, in Florida.

Jennifer Cassettari, at home with a dislocated shoulder.

Jerry Coughlan's mother, Mary.

Stephanie Coughlan's brother, Henry Stifel.

Lois Dotter.

Lester Fraser.

Owen Freas, at Bradley Hospital for Children.

Mike Holiday, recovering at Meadow Green Nursing Home in Waltham.

Bill Marth's mother, Mary Lou Marth.

Judy Nitsch' nephew, Josh Larson.

May Persson, recovering at home from rotator cuff surgery.

Elizabeth Robertson's brother, Charles Scott, in the hospital in Phoenix.

Guil Spencer, recovering at Braintree Rehabilitation Center in Framingham.

Beverly Stewart's daughter, Susan McGee, fighting cancer in Missouri.

Dan Sturtevant's mother, Betty, hospitalized in Washington D.C.

David Wimberly, recovering at home after surgery.

Continuing prayers from our congregation for:

Hope Bucklin, at Care One in Newton.

Matt Schuler, son of John and Dwin Schuler, in Pennsylvania.

Martha Spencer, Bill Spencer's sister.

To request a pastoral visit or to update information, please e-mail either [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto:judy@hillschurch.org) or [pash@hillschurch.org](mailto:pash@hillschurch.org) or call the church office (781.235.4425).