



Volume 3, Issue 19, January 26, 2017

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OPPORTUNITIES

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 - 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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND OF SERVICE - THANK YOU!

On Saturday, January 14, ten Hills Church members helped build a safe and permanent home for a family with inadequate shelter. The construction group worked on the Veteran's duplex in Lawrence, insulating and air sealing. The ReStore group packed up Christmas items and sorted books and pictures.

On Sunday, nearly a hundred participants across generations had their hands anointed to serve by building and painting five dining room tables, painting the youth room, writing and drawing dozens of care cards and placemats, making ten casseroles for the Wellesley Food Pantry, assembling a dozen welcome bags for Family Promise guests, and cleaning the nursery.

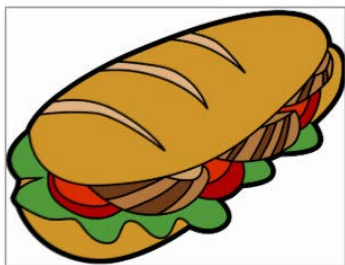
On Monday, ten people (age 5 and up!) celebrated the legacy of Martin Luther King with a service at Cambridge City Hall and then joined with thousands in making Valentines for elders and members of the armed forces and scarves for people living outdoors.

Thank you for making this a weekend of service! Special thanks to the Children's Ministry Team, Parish Life, the Christian Service Support Board, Youth Ministry, and the Women's Ministry Team for their great material and logistical support.

MLK Weekend of Service



SUPER SUBS ARE COMING!



Visit the home page of the church website, hillschurch.org, to order your subs today. You are just a click away.

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.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS

A Weekly Study with Rev. Matt Wooster
Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library
February 1 - April 26

The goal of this hour is to bring the scriptures into dialogue with the news of the world and the news of our lives. Each week is a stand-alone discussion of the Biblical passage to be read at an upcoming worship service. Come every week or drop in when you can.

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. Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net

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.

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.



THANK YOU HILLS CHURCH FOR CARING ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES ...

This year, your Christian Service Support Board felt led to offer financial help to Syrian refugees. We did this in two ways:

First, we directed our Christmas Offering to the relief of Syrian refugees through the UCC fund designated for that purpose. The funds will be used to help settle Syrian refugees in the United States and provide emergency aid to displaced people in the Middle East. Before Christmas, we asked you dear Hills Church Members to consider this unique time in the history of our nation and stand with those children of God who have suffered so much. You responded generously and enthusiastically, and we collected over \$16,000 for that purpose.

Second, we became aware of a local interfaith effort led by the Jewish Family Service of Metrowest to settle several Syrian refugee families in our community. We loved the idea of contributing to this cause in addition to the wider UCC fund, so \$500 from your tithes and offering (through the Christian Service Board budget) went towards the expressed need of customized ESL lessons for the parents of the Syrian family recently settled in our area. If you are interested in becoming more involved in helping with this timely ministry, please contact anyone on the Christian Service Support Board. For more information about the effort see: <http://www.jfsmw.org/>

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) or Jeff Thomas (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.

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

WE'VE PAINTED THE YOUTH ROOM!

Between MLK weekend and youth group this past week, we applied two coats of red paint to the brick walls in the youth room! Our next steps are to add messages to two of the white walls – and to install a ping pong table. Youth: this is your room! Come hang out!

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

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY, January 26

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, January 27

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 28

SUNDAY, January 29

9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. WHCC Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. Youth Groups

11:30 a.m. Children's Choir

4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 30

TUESDAY, January 31

7:30 p.m. Discernment Committee

WEDNESDAY, February 1

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, February 2

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. Staff Luncheon

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings:

Micah 6:6-8

Matthew 5:1-12

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, 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.