

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 44, September 14, 2017

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

## SAVE THE DATE FOR HONDURAS HOPE - JUNE 2018 INFORMATION SESSION AND APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE - THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER

Youth and adults will travel to Honduras next June for a week of learning and working. Make life better by working with your hands alongside amazing people, teaching little ones, and sharing in women's empowerment activities. This is both a Youth Mission Trip and an intergenerational one! Grades 7&8 are invited with a parent; high schoolers can come independently. Applications for the limited number of spaces available will be accepted this month. Learn more at an info session featuring Honduras Hope director Bill Briggs **after church THIS SUNDAY, September 17!**



## BIBLE AND THE NEWS - FALL SESSION BEGINS NEXT WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20



A Weekly Study with Rev. Matt Wooster  
Wednesdays, 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Church Library.  
Discussion on how the scriptures relate to the news of the day and the news of our lives. Each week will be stand-alone discussion of the Biblical passages to be read in worship. Come every week or drop in when you can.

## Would you like to become a member of the Hills Church? The next Joining Sunday will be October 15, 2017.

Please join clergy and church members in the Reception Room for two Membership Classes - the first on **Sunday morning, September 24**, and the second on **Sunday morning, October 1**. Both classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude in time for the morning Worship Service. Child care will be provided, on request.

These classes include information regarding Educational Programs, Service Opportunities, The United Church of Christ (UCC), Baptism, Communion and Confirmation at the Hills Church, and Community Life. We will also discuss the Order of Worship, Church Governance, the Membership Covenant and Stewardship.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP to the church office at 781-235-4424, ext 210 or via email to [cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org).

**INTRODUCTION TO THE REFORMATION – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, AT 11:30**

The Adult Education Ministry Team's fall program begins **right after worship on Sunday, September 24**, when our star seminarian, Adam Isbitsky, will be making a return visit and will lead a session he describes in the following words:

*The Protestant Reformation comes into its 500th year in 2017. In this session we will introduce the basics of some of the main people involved in the Reformation and their historical contexts. We will discuss important concepts that differentiated then-new Protestant theology and ecclesiology from the dominant Christian paradigms of the 16th century. We will trace themes of Protestantism that still flavor the United Church of Christ today, with a focus on the heritages of the Hills Church's history.*

**In the Reception Room – at 11:30.**

**AFRICAN INDIAN ALLIANCE – SAVE THE DATE  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 3:00 to 5:00 P.M.**



**On Sunday afternoon, September 24**, the African Indian Alliance will present a program update on this year's ministries. Come see and experience the wonder of the work that continues to unfold on the ground. Education—and companion ministries—are making a difference in the lives of some of India's poorest, most marginalized people. When we work together, we truly create a positive impact in our world

*Rev. Pash Obeng, Nena Radtke, Kelly Ford, Sarah Pedersen,  
Rev. Lauren Lorincz, Don Frederico, Katie McCabe, and Stephen Obeng*



**STAY FOR A SPECIAL EVENT AFTER THE OCTOBER 1 WORSHIP SERVICE  
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL OF THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY TEAMS  
DISCOVER WHERE YOUR GIFTS ARE NEEDED**

## COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

**Sunday evening, October 29**

Hills Church youth will once again be assembling and decorating care packages for our friends in college and boarding school as they recover from mid-terms and prepare for finals.

### **What we need from you now**

is your child's name and current mailing address, so we can get them their packages.

It would be helpful if you could also send us their email address and cell phone number, so we can update them on other upcoming events.

If you have a college or grad student or a high school boarder in your family, send us their info, too!

Please email the appropriate information to [carepackages@hillschurch.org](mailto:carepackages@hillschurch.org) or **fill out this form:** <http://tinyurl.com/churchcares>. (The sooner, the better; but please **no later than Wednesday, October 25.**)

## **THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING, THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!**

Fall is here and the wonderful Pumpkin Patch will soon be gracing the front lawn of the church! This event is a longstanding tradition at the church, and it has proven to be a great way to build community, showcase the church at its finest, and raise funds for two groups: the Youth Group and various beneficiaries designated by the Christian Service Support Board. The Youth Group typically uses its share of the proceeds to offset a portion of the cost of its service trips, and annually the Patch team works with the Christian Service Support Board to identify a specific local, national, or international outreach opportunity to receive their share of the Patch proceeds.



This year's pumpkins will be arriving late Friday afternoon, **October 13**, so mark your calendars so you don't miss the chance to help unload the truck and set up the Patch. Once the pumpkins are here, we will need volunteers to staff the Patch during the 18 days leading up to Halloween. Some of the hardest to fill slots are weekdays – so, if you are able, we would really welcome your assistance at those times. Staffing the Patch is a great opportunity to meet new friends and catch up with old ones. It is also a great family activity!

We encourage folks to sign up using SignUpGenius, so please sign up now. You will also be able to sign up during Sunday's Community Hours between now and Halloween. Thanks to everyone in advance. We are looking forward to another great year at the Patch!

*The Patch Team (Dave Thornton, Rob Andrews, Rev. Katherine Blaisdell, and Gintas Vildzius).*

## **OUR NEXT FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Please let either Tricia Frank ([pdfrank@comcast.net](mailto:pdfrank@comcast.net)) or Marbo Hansen ([marbo@hansenlink.com](mailto:marbo@hansenlink.com)) know if you would like to help make our guests feel welcome.

And please remember, while no training is needed for most volunteer positions, training is required for individuals wishing to serve as overnight or meal hosts.

Also, Family Promise is looking for a volunteer with extensive experience in creating an access database, forms and reports. This is essential to accurately capturing information from families requesting shelter.



If you know of anyone who might be qualified and interested, please contact the FPN office at 508-318-4820 or [amanda@familypromisemetrowest.org](mailto:amanda@familypromisemetrowest.org).

### **SEPTEMBER IS A PERFECT TIME TO JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!**

If you have ever played a musical instrument (even that's a distant memory) and can follow the notes on a piece of music, perhaps you should give bell ringing a try. The bell group would welcome high school students, select middle schoolers, and adults alike. We will provide introductory lessons to anyone who is interested. And, if the curiosity is large enough, a separate workshop will be given to show all members of the congregation what is involved in ringing a bell. To learn more about The Hills Bells, please contact either Martha Stowell at [cpbranwell@gmail.com](mailto:cpbranwell@gmail.com) or the Church Office.



### **SIGN UP TO TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL THIS FALL**

Parents, grandparents, members, caring adults the children of the church need your wisdom, your caring support, and your grace. Please help the Children's Ministry extend God's love to our youngest members.

- Volunteer in the nursery
- Teach in the toddler and pre- k room or in the rotation classrooms
- Shepherd a grade or mentor older grades

**Teaching in the Church School is fun and rewarding – and it's NOT HARD!** It is a four week commitment, and full job descriptions for each role are available on the church website. If you are new to this role, Sally, Erin, Josh or the Christian Ministry Team will teach you everything you need to know, pair you with an experienced teacher, and cover for you if you need to miss a Sunday.

To sign up, fill out a church school commitment form, go to the Children and Youth page on the church website or e-mail Sally at [sallyt@hillschurch.org](mailto:sallyt@hillschurch.org).

### **THE COMMUNITY HOUR MINISTRY TEAM IS RAMPING UP**



Consider sharing your gift of hospitality and welcome by volunteering to help!

Five or six people are needed each week to ensure that each Sunday there are beverages, pastries and fruit waiting for our members and guests to enjoy after worship – while they catch up with friends (old and new).

The Community Hour Ministry Team already has a Team Leader in place for each week – to guide, help or train anyone interested in helping – and is seeking volunteers to fill out each of its weekly team rosters.

Call or e-mail Anne Leland for more information or to volunteer - 617-669-6512 or [akoteen@gmail.com](mailto:akoteen@gmail.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, please contact Rich Sweeting – [rich@sweeting.us](mailto:rich@sweeting.us).

**DONATION MADE TO THE COMBINED JEWISH PHILANTROPIES**

The Holocaust Memorial in downtown Boston was vandalized not once – but twice – this summer. In light of the recent racist and anti-Semitic events here and around the country the church Christian Service Support Board voted to send a donation to the Combined Jewish Philanthropies, the organization that is collecting funds to repair the memorial. This donation is intended as a sign of solidarity with our Jewish neighbors and the greater Boston community on behalf of our whole congregation.

**UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

“Hot off the press” Church Directories - with updated member addresses and phone numbers, as well as current information about the missions and members of the church’s Support Boards, Standing Committees and Ministry Teams – are now available in the Church Office. Stop by to pick yours up – or e-mail the Church Office, [cynthia@hillschurch.org](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org), if you would like one mailed to you.

## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

### **THURSDAY, September 14**

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:00 p.m. African Indian Alliance

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Genesis 50:15-21  
Matthew 18: 21-35

### **FRIDAY, September 15**

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

### **SATURDAY, September 16 - Habitat Build (Holliston)**

### **SUNDAY, September 17**

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast - Ministry Team Leaders
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir
- 11:30 a.m. Acolyte/Crucifer Training
- 11:30 a.m. Youth Group Mission Trip Information Session
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, September 18**

- 7:30 p.m. Christian Service Support Board
- 7:30 p.m. Stewards Support Board

### **TUESDAY, September 19**

- 7:30 a.m. Technology Ministry Team
- 1:30 p.m. Tea with a Minister (Pash Obeng)
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers
- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

### **WEDNESDAY, September 20**

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 7:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, September 21 - Confirmation Retreat**

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Children's Ministry Event
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

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## YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### PLEASE TAKE OUR ANNUAL SURVEY!

#### Parents:

<https://goo.gl/forms/D6gPPAgWksDs0ZnL2>

Or scan code:



#### Youth:

<https://goo.gl/forms/E2AejKMu22a5LgAv1>

Or scan code:



### THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: YOUTH GROUP – FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 PM

This year, we're teaching youth group by season. Youth are ALWAYS welcome to show up whenever you can. But as you're looking at sports and extra-curriculars this year, consider adding a six-ish-week block of youth group into your schedule. Fall Sessions: September 17 and 24 – October 15, 22, and 29.

### THIS MONTH: FINDING FRIENDS: A SERIES ON FRIENDSHIP



You've probably had an experience or two that has taught you the power of a good friendship and the danger of a destructive one. Teenagers, though, sometimes have difficulty seeing the way their friendships influence them. So, in this series, we'll be discussing how to choose our friends wisely, exploring the qualities of a healthy friendship, encouraging students to build friendships with wise people, and learning to see Jesus as our best and truest friend.

### YOUTH GROUP SHIRTS!

As are walls will soon say, "Everyone's welcome, because nobody's perfect, and anything is possible." T-shirts and sweatshirts both available. Order at [tinyurl.com/hillsyouthshirt](http://tinyurl.com/hillsyouthshirt)





## PARISH REGISTER

Prayers of sympathy for:

**Kristin Toffer** and family on the death of her father, **Hans Toffer**, on September 4, in Dallas.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

**Pam Broderick's** mother, **Penny Wright**.  
**Debbie Classen's** mother, **Darlene**, hospitalized on Cape Cod.  
**Donna Kent's** granddaughter, **Tammy Paar**, in cancer treatment in Wisconsin.  
**Bill Marth's** mother, **Mary Lou Marth**.  
**Mary Ruth Negro**, continuing in treatment.  
**Marilyn Nutting's** brother, **Tom McCarthy**, continuing in rehabilitation.  
**Kyla P'an's** stepmother, **Lee Reynolds**, recovering after treatment.  
**Nana Poku**, undergoing medical evaluation.  
**John Schuler**, recovering at home after surgery.  
**Martin Schultz**, in cancer treatment.  
**Guil Spencer**, continuing in rehabilitation.  
**Beverly Stewart's** daughter, **Susan McGee**.  
**Pam Tucker**, undergoing further treatment.  
**Robert Williams' mother, Susie Williams**.  
**Myralee Wilson's** sister, **Bonnie Rose**, undergoing treatment.

Continuing prayers from our congregation for:

**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 [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto:judy@hillschurch.org) or call the church office (781.235.4424).

### 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.**