

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 57, December 14, 2017

www.hillschurch.org

The Joys of Advent at the Hills Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26	4:30 PM	• Advent Workshop and Dinner
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2	10:00 AM	• Decking The Halls
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 7:30 PM	• Advent I • Alternative Gift Fair • Advent Group Begins
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5	9:30 AM	• Tuesday Morning Advent Group Begins
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6	6:00 PM	• Lay-Led Worship Service & Dinner
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9	9:00 AM	• Cookies with Santa
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10	10:00 AM	• Advent II - Special Music Sunday • Family Promise Hosting Week Begins
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12	11:00 AM	• Christmas Concert and Luncheon
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16	4:00 PM	• Chancel Choir/Hills Bells Concert
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	• Advent III • Bake Sale Plus
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20	11:00 AM	• North Hill Worship Service
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24	10:00 AM 6:00 PM 9:30 PM	• Family Pageant • Lessons & Carols • Lessons & Carols



DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAST CONCERT – THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, AT 4:00



This year's Concert of Christmas Music – featuring The Hills Bells and the Children's Handbell Choir (conducted by Martha Stowell), the Children's Choir (conducted by Kirsten Oberoi) and the Chancel Choir (conducted by John Finney) – is **THIS SATURDAY, December 16, at 4:00 p.m.**

Wrap yourself and your family in the spirit of the season – and let the afternoon's beautiful music quietly surround you. This concert, which has become an annual "must-attend" tradition at the

Hills Church, is free – and open to the public. So, please come – and be sure to bring your family and friends with you.

CALLING ALL BAKERS AND CANDY MAKERS!

Please consider making extras of your best Christmas treats to sell at the annual Bake Sale sponsored by Women's Ministry. Bring your goodies to the big kitchen (downstairs) **this Saturday morning, December 16**, so that we may package them attractively for display at the sale **this Sunday, December 17**. Thank you!



BAKE SALE PLUS, THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

The annual Bake Sale Plus will be held **this Sunday, December 17 during Community Hour**. Cakes, cookies, candies and other treats make great hostess gifts for those upcoming holiday parties.

While the Hills Quilters will be selling a few of their beautiful potholders, their main offering this year is aprons. They have repurposed the drapes that used to hang in the Reception Room, as well as other donated fabric, to make aprons with a sentimental twist. Copies of the Hills Church Cookbook will also be available for purchase. All make great gifts!

The **Bake Sale Plus** is sponsored by the Women's Ministry. All proceeds are used to support the work of the Women's Ministry, including the purchase of fabric and yarn for quilts, prayer shawls, baptismal blankets, and graduation scarves.

ADVENT GROUPS 2017 – SUNDAY EVENINGS AND TUESDAY MORNINGS

This year's Advent groups begin this Sunday evening and next Tuesday morning. Both groups will be reading N. T. Wright's brand new devotional: *Advent for Everyone: A Journey with the Apostles*.

In this daily devotional, Wright, a leading British New Testament scholar, Pauline theologian, and retired Anglican bishop, selects passages from scripture, and then offers a brief reflection on key themes for the Advent season: *patience, thanksgiving, humility, and joy*.

Sunday evenings in Advent

December 3, 10, 17 from 7:30-9:00 pm

Co-Facilitators: Kelly Ford and Robin Swanberg

Location: At the McKinney's on December 3 and the Anthony's on December 10 and 17

Tuesday mornings in Advent,

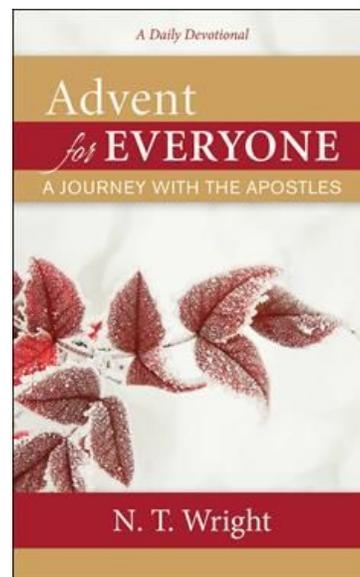
December 5, 12, 19 from 9:30-11:00 am

Facilitator: Rev. Judy Swahnberg

Location: Church library

A limited number of books will be available from Judy. You may also order a copy online directly from Westminster John Knox Press or your favorite bookstore.

To register for a group email judy@hillschurch.org or call the church office.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

You are truly an amazing congregation! All 300 people on our Christmas list will receive presents this Christmas thanks to your generosity.



Bless you,
Sue Spencer

THIS YEAR, THE CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY PAGEANT MOVES TO SUNDAY MORNING,



AT 10:00

This year's Family Service for Christmas Eve will be held at 10:00 a.m. instead of in the afternoon as in years past. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, the Children's Ministry Team and the Board of Deacons decided to hold the Family Service at our regular Sunday morning worship time. Children are invited to arrive early to choose a part in the narrated Christmas Pageant, and to attend the service in costume. When their parts are called, children will join the manger scene in Bethlehem.

The Christmas Eve candlelight services of Lessons and Carols will be held at 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The change in the time of the family service is for this year only, when Christmas Eve falls on Sunday.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE BOARD FINANCIAL SEMINAR: SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, AFTER WORSHIP

Ever wonder about those various Christian Service Board (CSB) accounts that show up on the church financial statements? Where does/did that pot of money come from? What does the CSB plan to do with it?

Come hear about some of the beautiful and exciting ministries that your tithes and offerings are helping to make happen. Plus hear about the vision and creative plans for the older accounts. These topics, plus any questions you might have, will be addressed in a short informal and informative presentation.

We will meet in the Reception Room **after church at 11:30 on Sunday, January 7.** Please join us.

**MARTIN LUTHER KING WEEKEND OF SERVICE
JANUARY 12-15.**

Hills Church is planning a weekend of service in honor of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 13-15. MLK Day of Learning - Saturday 9-3:30. Guest speakers and small group discussions for the 50th anniversary of the Poor People's Campaign.

All Church Hour of Service - Sunday 11-2. All ages are invited to spread through the church to work on feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and comforting the lonely.

Choose Your Service - Monday. Organize or participate in an MLK Day service project and be featured on the Hills Church bulletin board and in the newsletter.

Interested in helping? Email Rev. Katherine for more information.
Katherine@hillschurch.org.

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET?

If you have not yet submitted your 2018 pledge, please take a minute to complete your pledge card and mail it back to the church today. Thank you.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS – WEDNESDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.



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.

SCHEDULING NOTE: The next meeting of this group will be Wednesday, January 10.

THANK YOU FOR THE WONDERFUL – AND WONDERFULLY WARM – COATS

Thank you for the wonderful coats donated this past month. Over 110 coats were collected. The children's coats went to Cradles to Crayons and the adult coats were delivered to the Southampton Street Homeless Shelter in Boston.

A special thank you to the Saturday Morning North Hill Knitters who donated a large bag of hats.

Thank you, all.

WARM CLOTHES WANTED!

Are you expecting a new coat from Santa this year? Bring your old one to church! Buying socks to put under the Christmas tree? Pick up an extra pair for a person with too few! In January, the youth group will attend CityReach to learn about homelessness in Boston from people experiencing it, and serve alongside them. We need large backpacks; warm, rugged clothing (gently used); and new socks and underwear. Very large sizes are the most in-demand! Please drop them off in the bins no later than MLK Weekend.

PLEASE CONSIDER TEACHING DURING THE WINTER OR SPRING MONTHS

We need teachers in 2018. Please consider teaching our children about God.

- Are you new to the church and are unsure about what to do? We train and support you!
- Are your children grown up? Then please come share your well-earned knowledge.

Each Sunday we need twelve volunteers to run the school, could you be one?

- Cuddle a new born
- Sing with the Under 5's
- Grow with a Kindergartner
- Discover with an elementary school age child
- Mentor a pre-teen

Sign up sheets are available on each Church School floor. For more information, please contact: Sally Tomasetti - sallyt@hillschurch.org or visit the church website.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING AT ROCHE BROS.

Dwin and John Schuler are once again be conducting the Salvation Army Red Kettle bell ringing at Roche Bros.in Wellesley. Volunteers from the Hills Church are invited to ring the bell in front of the store for **one hour any time between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. through Sunday, December 24.** There is always a chair available to rest that ornery knee or back!



This one bucket has collected over \$30,000 for the past several years and the Salvation Army, which is known for its efficiency in using charitable funds, is able to convert this money into day care, meals, housing, job advice and more, for the less fortunate right here in our area.. Please call Dwin at 781-235-5615 to sign up for this worthwhile project.

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.

NOW IS A PERFECT TIME TO JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!

If you have ever played a musical instrument and can follow the notes on a piece of music, consider giving bell ringing a try. The bell group would welcome high school and middle school students, and adults alike. We will provide introductory lessons to anyone who is interested. To learn more about The Hills Bells, please contact Martha Stowell at cpbranwell@gmail.com or the Church Office.



SHARE YOUR GIFT OF HOSPITALITY AND WELCOME



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.

SCHEDULING NOTE: Events at the Hills, the church newsletter, will not be published Christmas week.

SAVE THE DATE
THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING
WILL BE HELD ON:
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, December 14

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

FRIDAY, December 15

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Felicia Payne)

SATURDAY, December 16

- 9:00 a.m. NAMI Reunion
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Church Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, December 17 – Brass Ensemble during Worship

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Handbell Choir
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 5:00 p.m. Holiday Reception for Youth Group Parents
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Sunday Evening Advent Group

MONDAY, December 18

TUESDAY, December 19

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Advent Group
- 6:30 p.m. Caring for the Caregivers
- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, December 20

- 11:00 a.m. North Hill Worship Service
- 7:30 p.m. NAMI Meeting
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, December 21

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Christmas Party – Church Staff
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday's Scripture Readings
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Check out the many ways for WHCC youth to participate on Christmas Eve this year!

- Christmas Pageant (10:00 a.m.): We need some shepherds to guide all of our Christmas pageant sheep! Come a little early, get into a costume, and be a Christmas pageant leader.
- Christmas Eve Services (6 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.): If you are interested in being a candle lighter (acolyte) at either the 6 or 9:30 p.m. service

Please contact Katherine if you would like to help Christmas Eve! (Katherine@hillschurch.org).

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SPRING YOUTH LEADERSHIP INTERNS!

Looking for something awesome to put on your college application? Want to make church a better place to be and bring your friends to? Apply now to be a Youth Leadership Intern.

Here are the basics:

- Come to church
- Help plan youth group and special events
- Help get other folks there
- Grow as a person

This is a 4-ish hour per week commitment. You can apply for a full year, or for a season (winter/spring) between sports or extracurricular commitments. ***Ivy League tip: Leadership experience looks great on college applications!***

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: CHRISTMAS CLICK, GRAB, AND GET HUNT

This December, we're hosting a night packed with scavenger hunting, prize giveaways, and fun. We hope you can make it! **Regular youth group time – from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17: PARENT CHRISTMAS PARTY

Yes, that's right -- it's at the same time as the scavenger hunt! Join other parents of Hills Church youth in the reception room for wine and hors d'oeuvres while your kids run around the church. 5pm to 7pm. Let us know if you need childcare for younger kids!



JOY TO THE WORLD -- AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Please consider adding these opportunities to your calendars.

(Contact Katherine Blaisdell – katherine@hillschurch.org - for more information.)

Martin Luther King Weekend of Service: January 12-15.

MLK Day of Learning - Saturday 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

All Church Hour of Service - Sunday 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Choose Your Service - Monday.

CityReach: January 19-20

During this 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. Open to grades 9 and up (including up to two adults!).

Honduras Hope Mission Trip: June, 2018

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AND EVENTS

COSTUME PICK UP FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Spread the Word! On Christmas Eve, at our 10:00 a.m. family service, we will have costumes available as you enter the sanctuary, just as we did last year. Children will get to choose their character, wear a costume and be a part of the fun, but will remain seated with their families to hear the full Christmas story. All are welcome to take part. Characters will be called forward at the appropriate time. Please come early to make sure your child has plenty of time to choose a costume.

JOIN THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The choir meets every Sunday after worship in the Third Floor Youth Chapel. All ages grades K + are welcome. Contact Kirsten Oberoi, Music Coordinator for Children and Youth, for more information.

CHILDREN'S BELLS

If you have a child interested in playing Bells, please contact Martha Stowell – cpbranwell@gmail.com.

The Children's Handbell Choir meets at 9:15 every Sunday morning in the Third Floor Youth Chapel.

GOT YARN? GET KNITTING!

Church School will work on a collection of hats, mittens, and scarves for our neighbors at City Reach. Our Youth Group will have the opportunity to deliver them later in the winter season. Look for the Mitten Tree coming later this month! If you need knitting lessons or a refresher course, contact anyone on the Women's Ministry team. They would love to help.

PARISH REGISTER

Prayers of joy and celebration for:

Britt and Brett Estwanik and family on the November 27 birth of their daughter, **Laine Catherine Estwanik**, weighing in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and joining proud big brothers **James and Luke**.

Prayers of healing and wholeness for:

Ron Alexander's brother, **Scott Alexander**, having health concerns in Michigan.
Ruth Andress' sister, **Marcia Jester**, receiving medical care in Springfield, MA
Angela Bahns, having pregnancy complications.
Anne Coursey's nephew, **Trevor Moynihan**.
Will Crowley, at home recovering from a concussion.
Ann Findeisen's husband, **Rob Sokolove**, recovering from a stroke.
Betsey Fitzgerald, recovering from heart surgery.
Christoph Hoffmann, receiving medical treatment.
Donna Kent's granddaughter, **Tammy Paar**, in cancer treatment in Wisconsin.
Dawn McGrew's father, **Bob Jones**, recovering following heart surgery.
Greg Muzzy, recovering at home after knee replacement surgery.
Gloria Schluntz, recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
Martin Schultz, in cancer treatment.
Guil Spencer, recovering after surgery, at Lincoln Commons.
Sue Spencer's father, **Ed Potter**, at Lincoln Commons.
Beverly Stewart's daughter, **Susan McGee**.
Rob Ann Tomlinson, at home with health concerns.
Gintas Vildzius' brother **Don Vildzius**, receiving medical care in Connecticut.
Robert Williams' mother, **Susie Williams**, in hospice care in North Carolina.
Betsy Wooster's mother, **Margaret Craft**, in rehabilitation in South Carolina.

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 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, or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

Weekly Newsletters

Sunday Orders of Worship

Submissions are due **Fridays by 5:00**

Submissions are due **Monday by 5:00**

p.m.

p.m.