

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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www.hillschurch.org

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.

Hills Church Christmas Eve Services

10:00 a.m. Family Christmas Pageant
(Children should plan on arriving between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. to choose their costumes for the pageant.)

6:00 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

9:30 p.m. Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols

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



**WHAT A LOVELY CONCERT. THANK YOU, JOHN AND LAURIE!
WHAT A LOVELY LUNCHEON. THANK YOU SENIORS MINISTRY TEAM!**



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.

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.

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.

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.

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 would like to thank the many members of the WHCC who offered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at Roche Bros. this month. The weather was at times cold and damp, but the ringers never missed a beat! We'll report the totals right after the first of the year, but with only a few days left, the money is still pouring in – and if you haven't had a chance to contribute yet – but would like to, we're still accepting cash and checks!



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 21

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

FRIDAY, December 22

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, December 23

SUNDAY, December 24 – Christmas Eve

- 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Family Christmas Pageant
- 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – Lessons and Carols
- 9:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service – Lessons and Carols

MONDAY, December 25 – Christmas Day (Church Office Closed)

TUESDAY, December 26

- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, December 27

THURSDAY, December 28

- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: THIS 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!***

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 THIS SUNDAY**, 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 arrive between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. 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:

Ande (Nicoletti) Schoenfeld and Steve Schoenfeld on the December 2 birth of **Golda Josephine Schoenfeld**, weighing in at 6 pounds, 11 ounces. Goldie joins big sister **Vivian Lorraine**. Grandparents are **Deb and Jim Nicoletti**.

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.
Christoph Hoffmann, receiving medical treatment.
Lily Jaczko, recovering at home after an injury."
Donna Kent's granddaughter, **Tammy Paar**, in cancer treatment in Wisconsin.
Dawn McGrew's father, **Bob Jones**, recovering following heart surgery.
Jack Morgan's nephew, **Daniel Dawson**.
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**.
Dan Sturtevant's mother, **Betty Sturtevant**, with health concerns in Washington, D.C.
Rob Ann Tomlinson, at home with health concerns.
Gintas Vildzius' brother **Don Vildzius**, receiving medical care in Connecticut.
Becky Williams' cousin, **Tami Blais**, in treatment.
Robert Williams' mother, **Susie Williams**, in hospice care in North Carolina.
Betsy Wooster's mother, **Margaret Craft**, at home recovering 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**
p.m.

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