

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 3, Issue 59, January 4, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

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

Ever wonder about those various Christian Service Support Board (CSSB) accounts that show up on the church financial statements? Where does/did that pot of money come from? What does the CSSB 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 this 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.

DID SANTA BRING YOU A WRENCH THIS YEAR?

Well, good! Because we are planning another Habitat work day **on Saturday, January 13 in Lawrence**. This is our annual tribute to Martin Luther King, honoring his legacy of service to others. There are four separate opportunities this time. There will be slots for ten (10) construction volunteers, six (6) slots for those wishing to help with ReStore, two (2) slots for anyone who wishes to bring a lunch to the work site and one (1)

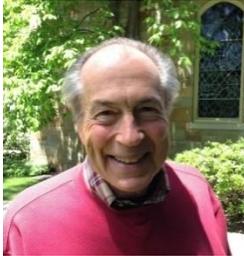


slot to offer a prayer for everyone first thing in the morning. Construction volunteers meet at 7:30 a.m. in the church parking lot and return by 5:00 p.m. ReStore volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. and return by 1:00 p.m.

The SignUp Genius is up and running. So, if you want to join us, you can sign up at any time. If you are not a SignUp Genius fan, just send Elaine an email – and she will make sure there is a spot reserved for you (vildzius@gmail.com).

www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-habitat

THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE IS JANUARY 17



In the third chapter of First Samuel we find the calling of Samuel to be God's prophet and speak God's word to Israel. It contains the familiar response of Samuel "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." But the third chapter contains much more. We learn that this was a time of great corruption in Israel, even among the religious leaders, and that "the word of the Lord was rare in Israel." I am persuaded that there are many similarities between Israel during the days of Samuel and our nation today. And it could certainly be argued that the word of the Lord is rare

right here and right now.

I love the motto adopted by the United Church of Christ "God is still speaking." And **on Wednesday evening, January 17**, we will wrestle with the possibility that the members of this church are being called to seek God's word and speak that word to all who will listen. Join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. and the worship service at 7:00.

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



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 RESUMES NEXT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 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.

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 RED KETTLE RAISES \$32,691.85

This year the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive, held at the Wellesley Roche Bros, collected \$32,691.85! Thanks again to all the members of the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church who rang the bell this year, including members of the church's bell choir. Together with over 200 other volunteers who also rang, some of them more than once, we were able to reach our goal. We are proud to have assisted the Salvation Army as they seek to "Do the Most Good" for folks in Wellesley and other communities who have come on hard times.



*Dwin and John Schuler, Coordinators
Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive in Wellesley*

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.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 4

- 9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. Staff Luncheon
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Church Council

FRIDAY, January 5

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 6

SUNDAY, January 7

- 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. Christian Service Support Board Financial Seminar
- 11:30 a.m. Confirmation Class
- 11:30 a.m. Children's Choir Practice
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 8

- 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, January 9

- 4:30 p.m. Food Pantry Client Supper
- 6:30 p.m. FCAP Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Search Committee

WEDNESDAY, January 10

- 10:00 a.m. Bible and the News
- 7:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 11

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6

Matthew 2:1-12

9:30 a.m. Clergy Meeting
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
1:00 p.m. North Hill Tea
6:30 p.m. New Beginnings



YOUTH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

YOUTH GROUP: PAIN INTO POWER – JANUARY 7, 21, 28, AND FEBRUARY 4



Life can often be a difficult journey. Sometimes it's difficult because of the choices we've made, but other times it's difficult because of circumstances beyond our control. By studying the book of Exodus and the stories of Moses and the Israelites, we'll look at how God can turn our pain into progress by **growing us, preparing us, and uniting us.**

JOY TO THE WORLD -- AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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CITYREACH: JANUARY 19-20.

CityReach gives young people the opportunity to learn first hand about homelessness from people who have experienced it. During the 20 hour session, participants join CityReach staff in street ministry and offer hospitality, food and clothing. This is followed by times of sharing and reflection. Open to grades 9 and up (including up to two adults!).

HONDURAS HOPE

June 2018 - Date to be determined by chosen participants.

Join our partner community in building, painting, teaching, and learning about culture, faith, and development. Mission Trip applications are required of youth participants and adult mentors.

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!*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES NEWS AND EVENTS

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 sympathy for:

Virginia Chamberlain and family on the December 28 death of her mother, **Susan Chamberlain**.

The family of **Victoria Sears O'Gorman-Thaler** on her death at North Hill. Vicky was 97 and was pre-deceased by her sister, **Jane Sears**.

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

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**.
Gloria Schluntz, recovering at home after a recent hospitalization.
Martin Schultz, in cancer treatment.
Guil Spencer, 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.