

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 12, November 22, 2018

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OTHERS



For many years members of this congregation have generously provided Christmas gifts for low-income families in Waltham that are identified by Early Intervention clinicians. All of the families on our list have at least one child under 3 years old who has developmental challenges due to a diagnosed disability or whose development is at risk due to certain birth or environmental circumstances.

The need is great...you can help! Sign up to shop for an individual, or a family (or more) at Community Hour **this Sunday, November 25**. We'll provide gift suggestions and instructions. **Wrapped gifts should be delivered to the church on, or before, December 9**. Questions? Call Sue Spencer at 781-893-2972. Thanks!

COME DECK THE HALLS!

ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1 - FROM 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

We will be decorating our sanctuary and entrances for Christmas –
And WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

Trimming the tree ...
Setting up the Advent wreath and candles ...
Putting the wrought iron candleholders on the pews ...
Adding bows to our wreaths ...
Filling our outdoor planters with Christmas greenery ...
And more ...

No special skills or talents required - we will put you to work when you arrive, and there are plenty of jobs for everybody to help with.

To learn more or to volunteer to help Deck the Halls on Saturday, December 1, contact Karen Gunn at kmgunn@comcast.net or 617-584-7829.

OR

Hop onto SignUpGenius (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ea4ac2ea3f58-deck>) and **VOLUNTEER ONLINE NOW!**

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

Coats for Boston's homeless shelters are being collected during November. As you clean your closets this fall, please set aside the warm clothes you don't need. Clean outerwear in good condition is accepted. All sizes are appreciated. Collection bins will be by the church doors **until the end of this month**. Questions – contact Tina Andersson, TinaAndersson11@hotmail.com



COMMON CATHEDRAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2

Fellow worshippers, WHCC has accepted an invitation to serve lunch and worship at **Common Cathedral** on Sunday, December 2. An outdoor congregation, **Common Cathedral** shares God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

We need volunteers to help us prepare lunch for the service. If you are interested in volunteering, please log on to Sign-Up Genius <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-common> and choose one of the following tasks:

- Food shopping **on Saturday, December 1**. Start time will be announced soon.
- Food preparation at the WHCC kitchen **on Sunday morning December 2, at 8:00 a.m.**
- Leave from WHCC at 11:00 a.m. and serve lunch at **Common Cathedral at 12:30**. Set up, serve lunch, participate in 1:00 p.m. worship service (optional) and help clean up after the service.
- Leave Boston Common at 2:30 to return to WHCC.

Menu: 150 sandwiches (turkey, ham, and veggie), with chips, water, oranges, and warm apple cider – and cookies for dessert.

The Hunger Outreach Ministry Team would be grateful for your contribution towards this mission.

WHCC ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2 AND 9, DURING COMMUNITY HOUR

Puzzled about how to select meaningful gifts this holiday season? Consider supporting the church's Christian Service international ministry outreach teams through our Alternative Gift Fair. Your purchases will advance the work of the church's partnerships with the African Indian Alliance and Honduras Hope.

- **African Indian Alliance (AIA)** will sell handsome gift cards of varying amounts to support the education of economically and socially disadvantaged Siddi students in SW India. This is the community we support through the efforts of our WHCC missionary, Pash Obeng.
- **Honduras Hope** will sell beautifully crafted baskets to support its work with economically and politically marginalized families in Honduras. Dangerous conditions necessitated postponing a planned WHCC outreach service trip there, which only highlights their need for our support.

Can you think of special individuals in your lives who would appreciate these gifts of love? If so, please join us on December 2 or 9. For further information, please contact Sarah Pedersen (pedersenfamily6@verizon.net) about the African Indian Alliance or Sue Spencer (suespencer42@gmail.com) about Honduras Hope.

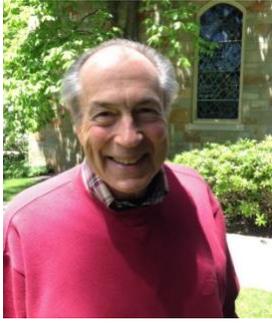
TEACH CHURCH SCHOOL THIS WINTER!

We need teachers in 2019. Please consider sharing your time with our children. Are you new to the church and unsure about what to do? We train and support you! Or are your children grown? Then please come share your well-earned knowledge.

Each Sunday we need 12-14 teachers to run the program, 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.

We need your caring support, your time and your grace for one month. **Contact: Sally Tomasetti -Sallyt@hillschurch.org - [or sign up here - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-teacher1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-teacher1)**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE NEXT LAY-LED WORSHIP SERVICE AND DINNER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5 – DINNER AT 6:00 – WORSHIP AT 7:00**



I have never put a great deal of stock in apocalyptic predictions, especially those that are supposedly brought about by a wrathful and vengeful God. However, in our current political environment where truth has been replaced with alternative facts to the point that nothing seems truthful, where well documented scientific studies that indicate a rapidly approaching tipping point in global warming are debunked and replaced by conspiracy theories, and where recent fire and flood disasters give us a preview of what a true apocalypse may look like, I am becoming convinced that an apocalypse is being brought about by mankind.

On Wednesday evening, December 5th, we will take a look at the apocalyptic prediction set forth in Luke's gospel and what it may say to those who look forward to the coming of Jesus at the beginning of Advent. **Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner in the Reception Room - and at 7:00 p.m. for worship in Wallace Chapel.**

Jim McKinney

THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND LUNCHEON IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

All are welcome at our annual Christmas Concert and Luncheon **Tuesday, December 11**, when our own Laurie Stewart Otten and John Finney will perform special music of the Christmas season, including traditional favorites such as "O Holy Night" and a Christmas carol singalong. Set aside your "to-do" list and allow the glorious music of the season to lift your spirits and surround you with joy! The concert is at **11 o'clock** in the Sanctuary, followed by a catered luncheon in the Reception Room for those who are able to stay.



If you plan to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to Cynthia in the church office by **Thursday, December 6** (781-235-4424). And please also let us know if you would like a ride - we can easily provide one.

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, AT 4:00



This year's Concert of Christmas Music - featuring The Hills Bells and the Children's Handbell Choir (conducted by Martha Stowell), and the Chancel Choir (conducted by John Finney) - is **SATURDAY, December 8, 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.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION...

Where we can see God...

In last week's "Events in the Hills," I paused in reading a reflection by Matt at the end of the announcements. He shared his hope that "all of us will find the places that are safe, where we can trust that we are accepted and loved, and we can risk being honest and real. Those are holy places, where we can see God."

Looking for such a place? Join us in the Reception Room on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30a.m. where we pause and make room for God in the midst of our busy days.

Come as you are able, just as you are.

Questions? Email Mary Hill Canavan at mhillcanavan@gmail.com or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at judy@hillschurch.org.



THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN TOTAL HAS JUST TOPPED LAST YEAR'S

To date, 178 households have pledged.

Commitments for 2019 now total almost \$850,000.

If you haven't yet had a chance to pledge, we hope you will take a minute now to either:

Pledge online at www.hillschurch.org/stewardship or
Fill out your Pledge Card and mail it back to the church today.

Your Pledge Counts! Thank you for pledging.

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Please mark your calendars for our **2018 CHRISTMAS WEEK HOSTING** - December 23 through December 30. As of now, we are responsible for set up and breakdown. On December 23 we will need one dinner provider, two dinner hosts and two overnight hosts. Other congregations have taken a few of the other dates. Guests are often away on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.



The schedule for upcoming Family Promise training sessions is listed below. All classes start at 7:00 p.m. and typically finish around 8:30. Please contact Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com with any questions. They can also help you sign up for training classes.

Thursday, Nov. 29	Christ the King	<u>600 Central Street, Holliston</u>	
Tuesday, Dec. 11	FPM Day Center	<u>6 Mulligan Street, Natick</u>	

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

**SIGN UP FOR THE ADVENT DINNER AND GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOP
VISIT THE REGISTRATION LINK IN THE EVENTS AT THE HILLS**

<http://events.constantcontact.com/calendar/monthview?llr=uccnypcab&eso=001Z5tGFik5sllEULphLzEckA==>

VOLUNTEER AT THE ADVENT DINNER

To make this event a great success, we need help. Meet new people of the church, make new friends, serve your church, and have some fun. All volunteers can still participate fully in the event.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-2018>

HATS, MITTENS, AND SCARVES...OH, MY!

The Church School is hosting a mitten tree in the Assembly Room during the Advent season. Leading up to Christmas we will collect mittens, hats, and scarves. Let's cover the tree with warmth to share! This year, the collection will be donated to Boston Cradles to Crayons and Boston's City Reach.



COOKIES WITH SANTA

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 8 – FROM 9:00 TO 11:00

Santa's sleigh will glide into Chapel Place again this season when the Jolly Old Elf returns to the Hills Church.

Take this opportunity to write him a note and smile for a photo.

All ages are welcome to decorate and share a cookie with the big guy.

SANTA NEEDS OUR HELP! – DECEMBER 8 - FROM 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.

The big guy is almost here; that's right Santa is coming to Hills Church!

However, he needs a little help. Close to 70 kids come to decorate cookies and sit on his lap, and Santa is marvelous but can't greet that many kids alone. He needs church helpers to lend a hand.

Can you spare an hour or two on December 8th? Contact Sally or [view the sign up here](#):

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-cookies1>

FOLLOW THE STAR THIS ADVENT IN CHURCH SCHOOL –DECEMBER 2, 9, 16 AND 23

Join us for Sunday Advent exploration on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas – We have a great movie, an app, and a life-sized star hunt. All kids are invited to “Follow the Star” this Advent season.

COSTUME PICK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT...SPREAD THE WORD.

During the 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve family service the clergy has traditionally invited children to leave the worship service and find a costume in the assembly room while awaiting their turn on stage. **This year, we will have costumes available as you enter the sanctuary.** Children still get to choose their character, wear a costume and be a part of the fun, but will remain seated with family to hear the full Christmas story. All are welcome to take part. Characters will be called forward at the appropriate time. Come early to choose a costume. All are welcome to participate.

**DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S –
ADVENT WORKSHOP AND DINNER!**



**You are invited...
Advent Workshop and Dinner
THIS Sunday, November 25**

The Hills Church has a great tradition of starting the Advent Season with Gingerbread House making, Christmas Carols, and Dinner. All are welcome!

**Gingerbread House Making
4:30-5:30 p.m.**

This is always a huge success, so we're bringing them back again. Houses can be reserved in advance for \$15 each. Buy one for each person in the family, or just buy one for your whole family to decorate together. Every year sees new advances in home decorating, so bring your ideas, creativity, and extra supplies (frosting, candy, and more will be provided). Gingerbread Houses are \$15:00

**Carol Singing and Advent Fun
5:30-6:15 p.m.**

We move to the Sanctuary for a time of seasonal fun and carol singing led by John Finney.

**Dinner in the Assembly Room
6:15 p.m.**

Reservations are required for the dinner. Lasagna and pasta dishes from Comella's, fruit, salad, bread, drinks, and more. Each family is asked to bring a finger dessert to share.

Dinner- Adults \$8.00, Child \$5.00, Under 3 \$3.00

**Tree Lighting on the Front Lawn
7:00 p.m.**

For more information or if you would like to register for the evening:
Check the *Events at Hills Church* online listing, or
Contact Cynthia - Cynthia@hillschurch.org



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



YOUTH GROUP

At The Hills Church

2018 Fall Season (September. – December)

Middle School YG meets: 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Senior High meets: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

*Programs meet every Sunday evening unless otherwise indicated

Middle School YG meets in the Assembly Room. Senior High YG meets in the Youth Room! For more information email

Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org .

Quotable Quote: "My Child, do not worry, do not be afraid ... Remember I got this..."

Love, God

OUR YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

11/25 Advent Dinner! Gather together with our church family as we kick off the beginning of the season of Advent! We will be making our own gingerbread houses (\$15), we will be singing hymns and carols, enjoying a scrumptious meal (reservations required) and lighting our favorite evergreen tree! Festivities begin at **4:30 and run through until 7:00pm!** All are welcome!



11/30 @ 7:30pm -12/1 @ 8:00am: An Overnight Retreat at Rock Spot Climbing Rock Gym! We cannot wait for this overnight retreat! The Retreat is open to youth in grades 6-12! If you have a passion for rock climbing and making unforgettable memories -- then this is the retreat for you! Be sure to register online [HERE](#) . Please be sure to

check your emails for more information. You can also email Rev. Anne Marie -- annemarie@hillschurch.org.

12/2 serving with Common Cathedral: We hope that our youth and their families will support our Hills Church *Hunger Outreach Ministry Team with this awesome service opportunity!* Please click on the link below to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA4AC2EA3F58-common>

12/8 Saturday 9-11am Cookies With Santa! Be sure to sign up to help with this joyous occasion! We need Elves to help out Santa! Email Sally or Anne Marie if you are able to join in the holiday fun!

12/9 Youth Groups meet at regular times. Youth Group Christmas Party! Please bring a small grab gift for our gift exchange! (\$5.00 or less!)

12/16/18 Both youth groups meet at regular times for our program titled, "Silent Night".

Stay tuned for our YG Winter Program Flyer 2019 to be e-mailed out next week.

ADVENT BREAKFAST CLUB

As we enter the Advent Season here at the Hills Church we begin to reflect on the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love found in celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Throughout the Sundays in Advent our high school aged teens are invited to drop by to see Rev. Anne Marie, before church – around 9:30 a.m. – in her office for an Advent devotional time which includes donuts and hot chocolate!



HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, November 22 – Thanksgiving Day – Legal Holiday (Church Office Closed)

FRIDAY, November 23 – Church Holiday (Thanksgiving Break)

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, November 24

SUNDAY, November 25

9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study

9:15 a.m. Hills Ringers Rehearsal

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Community Hour

11:30 a.m. Children’s Choir Rehearsal

4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal

4:30 p.m. Advent Workshop and Dinner

7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, November 26

1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting

7:00 p.m. Pastor Parish Relations

TUESDAY, November 27

9:00 a.m. Stewardship Committee

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation Group

WEDNESDAY, November 28

7:00 p.m. African Indian Alliance

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class and Dinner

7:30 p.m. Men’s Group

8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, November 29

10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. New Beginnings

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings

2 Samuel 23:1-5

John 18:33-37

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.**