

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 32, April 25, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE BE SURE TO SAVE THESE TWO DATES

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Information Session – HVAC System Project

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Special Meeting Of The Congregation – HVAC System Project

Both meetings will begin right after the Sunday Morning Worship Service

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH – BUILDING A PLAN

Three weeks ago, I attended a meeting with Master Planning Co-Chair Janeen Hansen, our architect, consultants from the construction and engineering companies as well as our owner's project manager, all of whom came together to further refine the scope and cost of our heating system replacement project. The project has moved from the early design phase and the initial estimate which was based on what was known at the time - to the development of a more refined cost estimate based on the components of the project.

As this team of experts presented their findings from their research of the church building over this past month, it became clear that plans for repairing the heating system are tied to other work that needs to be addressed at this time as well. While the ceilings are open in the nursery school for example, it will be more efficient and cost-effective to replace outdated lighting fixtures and install the fire protection system at that time. This assessment by the contractors and engineers has determined that the scope of this first phase of our church's renovation - as well as its cost - will be greater than originally estimated. A detailed overview of the heating system replacement project follows.

Based on this latest development, Church Council at its meeting on April 9 moved to call a **Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, May 12** following the worship service to seek approval to proceed with this refined plan and related funding. Further information about the scope and cost of this project will be provided in the coming weeks. In preparation for this meeting, an informational session **this coming Sunday, April 28**, will be held to provide you with additional details and to answer any questions you may have.

As one who discovered that the vanity I chose for a bathroom renovation did not fit the space once the walls were opened up and the plumbing exposed, I have a greater appreciation for the

To keep everyone up to date on the Master Planning process, we will report to you periodically through "Events at the Hills." And at any time, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns. E-mail officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org to share them with Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, and Chris Stowell or reach out to any of them individually.

complexity involved in defining the scope and cost of a project of this scale for our church that has a long building history. And yet having had the opportunity to meet with and listen to the individuals tasked with this project, I have confidence in their expertise as well as in their commitment to the care and renovation of this sacred space.

Please mark your calendars for this important meeting of the congregation on May 12. Your participation and voice matter - as it is our collective discernment that determines the next step on our church journey and in our life as a faith community.

In service and faith,
Mary Hill Canavan, Gintas Vildzius, Christopher Stowell – Office of the Moderator

UPDATE ON THE HVAC PROJECT

On March 3, the congregation voted to spend up to \$1.5M to renovate portions of the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) systems of the main church building and the Parish House. The plan is to fund this project by a capital campaign to be rolled out in the Fall, although expenses incurred before the completion of the campaign will be met with a bank loan under the supervision of the Stewardship Committee.

On May 12, the congregation will be asked to vote on expanding the budget for the renovation of the HVAC system. **There will be a presentation after church this coming Sunday, April 28**, that will review more of the background information and detail, but a summary is provided here.

Why has the projected budget for this project increased? There are two factors driving the increase in the budget: expansion of the scope of the project, and revision of some of the budget estimates.

Expansion of scope: Repairs to the first floor of the Parish House, which houses the Nursery School, are part of the Master Plan, but the Master Plan Steering Committee and the HVAC Subcommittee are proposing to do them concurrently with the HVAC Project, rather than later, for two reasons.

First, the HVAC project will entail opening the ceilings on the first floor of the Parish House. It will be cheaper in the long run to do the necessary ceiling, lighting, sprinkler and electrical work then, rather than closing the ceilings and going back to do it at a later date. Note that by Code, we cannot leave open ceilings while the rooms are occupied, so that is not an option. Doing this additional work at the same time as the HVAC renovation also means that the Nursery School would only be displaced one summer, instead of two.

Secondly, as we discovered after the ceiling problem in the Teachers' Break Room in March, the ceiling and light fixtures are nearing the end of their expected useful lifespans and this summer's construction project presents a well-timed opportunity to replace them.

Revised cost estimates: Since the vote in early March, additional planning work has been done by our Architect, our HVAC system consultant, our Owners' Project Manager (OPM), and our Construction Manager to develop detailed construction plans. In the process, they will consult with a number of other construction industry professionals with specialized expertise in various fields (e.g., fire safety, building code compliance, hazardous materials) as well as the Town of Wellesley and National Grid, in order to refine the scope and determine the updated cost of our project. It is this refined cost estimate based on these more detailed construction plans that we will vote on at the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 12.

Why did we vote on a budget based on preliminary estimates? The primary factor was time. In order to complete the HVAC work on the first floor of the Parish House in time for the Nursery School to open in the Fall, we must begin work in June which means completing the final construction plans, ordering materials and equipment, and getting permits during May. In order to

accomplish these tasks, we needed to have an OPM and contractor in place by the beginning of April, for which we needed approval from the Congregation in March. It was also important to move quickly to hire the OPM and the contractor because the summer is typically peak construction season, particularly for schools and universities which also have Fall opening deadlines.

It's worth reminding ourselves why we are doing this in the first place. The HVAC system is a very old patch-work which is dysfunctional: uneven heating, no central A/C in the Parish House, inadequate air circulation, no fresh air supply, no sprinkler system. It's been failing, and those failures incur unbudgeted and disruptive repairs which are, at best, patches.

Replacing the HVAC system may not be glamorous or driven by a specific mission, but in the end, this building, this space, supports every mission of our church family, the missions of the many community groups that use our facilities, and every person who comes here to work, to worship, to serve, or to connect.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please address them to the moderators (officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org).

And please remember to mark two Sundays - this Sunday, April 28 - and Sunday, May 12 - on your calendar for the information session and the vote on the expanded HVAC project, respectively, both of which will be held immediately after the morning church service. Thanks!

YOUR STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM ASKS: WHY ARE WE HERE AS THE HILLS CHURCH?

Thank you to all who have responded to the question of "why" so far. Your thoughts are valuable and we are working on organizing the responses. There will be a final opportunity to post your thoughts again, **this Sunday, April 28, during Community Hour**. You may also email responses to the Office of the Moderator, (their email is below). Or you can input your response online through a single Survey Monkey question: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2WZ86BQ>

The recently formed Strategic Planning Work Group members have been discussing important elements of the strategic plan, including the five Hallmarks of our church ministry, in order to discern where we are going as a faith community and how we are planning to meet needs in our church and community. The group has identified a key piece of this process as being able to articulate *why* we are all here as the Hills Church. It is easier to describe *what* the Hills Church does or *how* we practice ministry. For example, we support, reflect, nurture, and learn through community service, musical celebrations, and education programs with children and youth.

We want to hear from the whole congregation about "Why we are here as the Hills Church?" We will use this feedback to help formulate a collective "why statement" which will serve to focus and inspire a strategic plan for the Hills Church.

Please take a few minutes today to think about this question: "Why we are here as the Hills Church?" We welcome *everyone's* response to this question. Your voice matters, as it is our collective discernment that will help to determine steps in our collective faith journey.

This Sunday, April 28, there will be another opportunity to write your responses and post them to a brainstorming board during Community Hour. Your response can be words or a statement. It can be anonymous or you can sign your name. You may also email your thoughts, words or statements to the church c/o the office of the moderator: officeofthemoderator@hillschurch.org. Thank you for taking the time to think about **why**.

*Rob Andrews, Mary Canavan, Nancy Simons, Jessica Sturtevant, Kristen Toffer
Gintas Vildzius, Anne Marie Holloway, and Matt Wooster
Your Hills Church Strategic Planning Ministry.*

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S GRACE KNIGHT BABSON PROGRAM

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 28, AT 4:00 – AT BABSON

Every year Babson College hosts the annual religious education program of the Grace Knight Babson Fund. The Grace Knight Babson Fund for Religious Education is a Trust established under the statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the generosity of the late Roger W. Babson in memory of his wife. The purpose of this Fund is to encourage the accumulation of a body of spiritual wealth through the study of the holy scriptures.

The Fund makes financial contributions to Wellesley religious institutions that perform at the event. Children from the Hills Church have participated in this annual event for more than 40 years. This tradition will continue this Sunday, when six of our Hills Church children will sing *"This Little Light of Mine"* and recite Matthew 5:14-17 from memory.

Children from a number of other Wellesley congregations will also be participating in the program. John Finney will be at the organ Sunday afternoon – and everyone will have the opportunity to sing *"America, the Beautiful"* and a round together. It is a great way to celebrate Wellesley and its many religious institutions. So, please join us **this Sunday afternoon, April 28, at 4:00 p.m.** – at Babson College. **All are welcome.** Ask Anne Marie Holloway or Sally Tomasetti for details.

BIBLE AND THE NEWS



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.

PLANT FAITH THIS SPRING!

Working in children's ministry is an awesome opportunity to make a difference. To plant a seed of goodness that grows.



Be a part of this ministry, and you will see what we're talking about.

We have changed the schedule of church school team member needs a little:

- **K-4 Sundays – April 28, and May 12 and 19** – Three Sundays of rotation class. Sign up to teach all three Sundays. **NOTE THE DATES.**
- Nursery and Pre K class – All Sundays in April and May.
- June helpers – June 2 assisting in Church School and June 9 in the Worship service.

See the updated sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a44a4ab2ba64-spring> or see Sally.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Membership Ministry Team invites you to attend our next joining series. We will be hosting an Inquirers Gathering **this Sunday April 28**, after the worship service in the Board Room. Matt Wooster will lead the conversation which will last about 45 minutes. He will provide information about the Hills Church vision and the Hallmarks of our church as well as answer any questions.

We will also be holding our next Membership Class **on Wednesday evening May 8**, from 6:00 to 8:00 in the Reception Room. Food will be provided and childcare is available. This class will include information regarding The United Church of Christ (UCC), Baptism, Communion and Confirmation

at the Hills Church. We will also discuss the Order of Worship, Church Governance, Children and Adult Educational Programs, Service Opportunities and Community Life.

The next scheduled joining is **on Sunday morning May 19, during the worship service.**

If you are interested in joining us for any of the above, please contact Donna Maley at maley15@aol.com so we are able to arrange materials (and childcare, if needed).

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – 9:30 TO 10:30 –

We welcome all to Morning Meditation on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Reception Room at the church – whether you are new to meditation or practice daily.

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

Come as you are able, whenever you can...we look forward to seeing you then.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN (SCW)

THIS EVENING, THURSDAY, APRIL 25 – AT 7:30 – IN THE THIRD FLOOR YOUTH ROOM

By popular demand and because we are growing and hearing new stories each week, we will continue with Our Faith Stories through the end of April. We meet every **second Tuesday** and **fourth Thursday** of each month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. **Our next meeting is TONIGHT – and we hope you can come.** We are a diverse, open group who embraces you *wherever you are in your faith journey*. Come and participate by sharing or just listening. Sponsored by: Patty Sibanda, Jessica Sturtevant, Elaine Vildzius, Becky Williams, Kristen Toffer, Ntonhle Kekana, and Judy Marth.

IN RECOGNITION OF 2019 HILLS CHURCH GRADUATES

On Celebration Sunday, June 9, we will acknowledge and honor all Hills Church graduates. If you know of any graduates from high school, college, or graduate school, please send their names to Cynthia at cynthia@hillschurch.org. **by Monday, June 3.** Please reflect the name of your graduate exactly as you would like it to appear in the Sunday Order of Worship and the church newsletter – and be sure to include the name of the institution from which they will be graduating. And finally, if you are the parent of a High School senior, please let us know whether they will be in church on June 9 to receive their gift from the congregation!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY IS MAY 5

You are cordially invited to take part in this special celebration of welcoming our confirmands as they make their public commitment to this faith and the Church!

THIS YEAR'S EASTER OFFERING

This year our Easter Offering is being divided between two recipients.

One half is being donated to Family Promise's Capital Fund, which Family Promise will use to purchase and refurbish a new Day Center. We have, of course, participated for years in their core program of furnishing temporary shelter for families with children here at WHCC. At their home-like Day Center, they provide showers, lunch, child care, and play areas for the children when they are not in school. Those parents who are not already employed benefit from a number of training programs offered by Family Promise, as well as various other services intended to help them maximize their earning potential. After families leave the shelter, they also receive up to one year of case management support and financial subsidies.

The other half of the offering is going to the Wellesley Food Pantry in memory of Mike Kamio, a much loved and extremely active member of the WHCC congregation. Mike's life was closely associated with food -- both professionally and in his many years of dedicated support for our "Super Sub" program. His family suggested the Wellesley Food Pantry be a recipient of this year's Easter offering. Since 1989 The Wellesley Food Pantry has provided supplemental and emergency food to approximately 200 Wellesley households in need, encompassing more than 420 individuals; about one-third of whom are children and another third are seniors.

WE NEED YOUR HELP FOR OUR MAY HOSTING!

Our next hosting week is May 5 - 12. Sign ups are live on CERVIS. Link for volunteers is: <http://cerv.is/m?0002>

Our next and final hosting for this year will be October 27 – November 3.

Many Family Promise volunteer positions require training - but not all! The schedule for upcoming Family Promise training sessions is below. All training classes begin at 7:00 p.m. and last about an hour and a half.



Please contact Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com with any questions.

Thursday, April 18,	FPM Day Center	6 Mulligan Street, Natick	Laraine	lmarthinsen@verizon.net
Tuesday, May 7,	Wellesley Village Church	2 Central Street, Wellesley	Diana	diana.carroll4@gmail.com
Saturday, May 11	Christ the King Church	600 Central Street, Holliston	Linda	lkandtk@verizon.net
Thursday, May 23	FPM Day Center	6 Mulligan Street, Natick	Laurie	laurieotten50@gmail.com
Tuesday, June 4	Needham Congregational Church	1154 Great Plain Ave, Needham		

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS



***YOUTH GROUPS
At The Hills Church***

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

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

*Both programs meet every Sunday evening in the Youth Room unless otherwise indicated

For more information email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org .

Quotable Quote: "True leadership often happens with the smallest acts, in the most unexpected places, by the most unlikely individuals."

~Michelle Obama

UPCOMING YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE(S) AT A GLANCE

04/28/19 (SUNDAY) – No regular Youth Group meetings. Grace Knight Babson Event at 4:00 p.m. Details TBA.

05/05/19 (SUNDAY) – Confirmation Sunday! Join us for our worship service at 10:00 a.m. as we confirm and celebrate alongside our 2019 Confirmation Class! Youth Groups meet at regular times for program titled, "Dear Future Self ..."

05/12/19 (SUNDAY) – Mothers' Day. No Youth Group meetings! (Be sure to celebrate and be good to those awesome "motherly humans" in your lives!)

05/19/19 (SUNDAY) – Both Youth Groups meet Sunday afternoon from 4:00 to 5:15 for a Shaving Cream Wiffle Ball Tournament. All fifth graders are also invited to come for this afternoon of fun and fellowship!

05/26/19 (SUNDAY) – Memorial Day Weekend! No Youth Group Meetings!

*Our **Confirmation Class** meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm in the Reception Room.*

*Our **Middle Schoolers** meet on the third floor for church school on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.*

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, April 25

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women

This Sunday's Scripture Reading
Acts 5:27-32
John 20:19-31

FRIDAY, April 26

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Judy Swahnberg – 29 Kenilworth Road in Wellesley)

SATURDAY, April 27

SUNDAY, April 28

- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 9:15 a.m. The Hills Ringers Rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 11:30 a.m. HVAC System Information Session – Reception Room
- 11:30 a.m. Inquirers' Gathering – Board Room
- 4:00 p.m. Hills Bells Rehearsal
- 4:00 p.m. Grace Knight Babson Program (at Babson)
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, April 29

- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting

TUESDAY, April 30

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 7:00 p.m. Stewards Support Board

WEDNESDAY, May 1

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

THURSDAY, May 2

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

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.**