

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 42, October 3, 2019

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

TIA PINNEY AND KEVIN GROPE TO CHAIR 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



Familiar faces are taking the lead in this year's campaign during the month of October, which will culminate on Dedication Sunday, October 27. The annual stewardship campaign provides the majority of financial support for our church's ministries from the pledged gifts of members and friends of the congregation.

Tia and Kevin joined the church in 1985, though they have been members of the chancel choir for even longer. Their four children - Ben, Chris, Nathaniel, and Harriet -

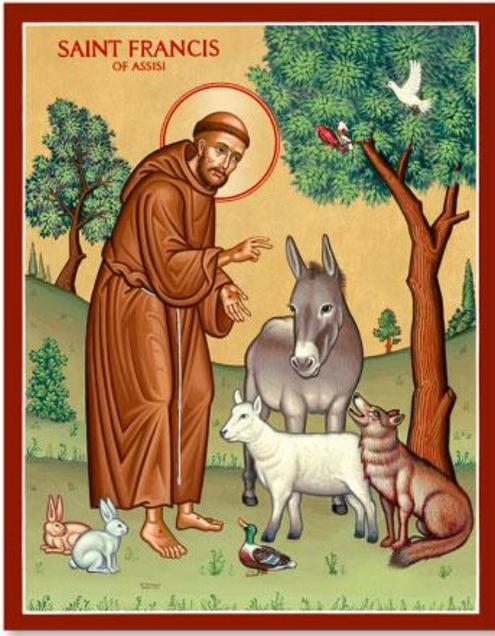
grew up participating in Church School, Youth Groups, choir, Christmas pageants and plays, fellowship retreats, and service projects.

Kevin has served as a deacon three times, including a term as co-senior deacon. He has also served on and chaired the Music Committee. He has been a member of the Christian Education Committee, Pastor Parish Relations Committee, and the Christian Service Board. He is a frequent overnight host for Family Promise, a Pumpkin Patch participant, and a member of the Care Team Ministry. He loves the Tuesday Morning Meditation Group.

Tia has served as a deacon twice (at least). She has been a member and chair of the Christian Education Committee, a member of the Music Committee, and was chair of the Property Maintenance Committee for over ten years. Currently, she serves on the Stewards Board. For fifteen years in the late 80's and 90s, she directed the Christmas Pageant, which included flocks of sheep and many shepherds, droves of donkeys and pigs, bebies of doves, choruses of angels, and legions of Roman soldiers.

The theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign is "To Everything A Season," helping us to remember the importance of support for our church's annual ministries. Before next season's capital campaign, which is now in the planning stage for the winter months, it is important to sustain annual support for the ongoing ministries that extend Christian love from week to week. Members and friends of the Hills Church are committed and generous, and this year's Stewardship Campaign goal is to continue our trend of growing annual support. As annual support grows, our reliance on the church's endowment to cover annual budget deficits decreases. Please watch your mail for a letter from Kevin and Tia, and more information throughout this month about our congregation's annual Stewardship objectives.

THE STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM INVITES YOUR IDEAS



This Sunday, October 6, at 3:00, Rev. Judy Swahnberg invites all beloved pets and their “people” to gather on the front lawn for a simple service of Blessing of the Animals.

We'll ask God to care for our animals' health and wellbeing, and bless the relationship and bond we have with them as part of our common kinship, an aspect of the great glory of Creation.

Please consider what will work best for your animal - bringing dogs on leashes and cats and other animals in comfortable travel containers. Stuffed animals also welcome!

Questions? Contact Rev. Judy Swahnberg
judy@hillschurch.org



CONFIRMATION CLASS “DINNERS AND CONVERSATION” BEGIN OCTOBER 9

We are so excited to have fourteen young adults interested in participating in our Confirmation Class 2019/2020 Dinners and Discussions program. What a blessing it was to hear from and/or gather together with so many of our teens and talk about plans for the program year!

As a reminder, Confirmation 2020 Class Dinners and Conversations begin **next Wednesday, October 9**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room (located directly off the Sanctuary on the north side of the church)! If you were unable to make it to our Orientation Dinner on September 25, please be sure to reach out to Rev. Anne Marie Holloway to let her know your teen will be participating in this year's Confirmation Program!

Email: annemarie@hillschurch.org
Cell/Text: 508-404-0287

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION: “LETTING GO AND LETTING BE”

If you ask anyone who has attended Tuesday Morning Meditation what one of the greatest challenges to this practice is, very likely the response will be, “Letting go and letting be;” to be able to let go for a moment all thoughts of the past, of setting aside the day's tasks and tomorrow's worries and to just be present to the moment. For it is in this "letting go and letting be" that we create space for a sense of peace and calm to enter our hearts, awakened to the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Curious to know more? Whether you have experienced the practice of meditation before or are new to it, please join us on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 in the Board Room as we awaken our hearts together.

Come as you are able, whenever you can....

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

A NEW BIBLE STUDY: WOMEN IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

MONDAY EVENINGS THIS FALL – FROM 7:00 TO 8:30 – IN WALLACE CHAPEL

Emerging from Jewish tradition and the patriarchal culture of the time, a new generation of women uses their hands, hearts, and voices to continue Jesus' ministry. Let us enter the world and times of the Acts of the Apostles, including some of these women:

- A sudden, shocking death.
- An unlikely leader of a house church that provides fellowship, prayer, and shelter.
- A disciple raised from the dead.
- A prophetic slave.
- Another slave who recognizes Peter's voice and lets him in.
- A respected preacher.
- Faithful tenders of the sick and hungry.
- Prisoners of the Roman constabulary.
- A member of the nobility who sits mute at Paul's hearing.

Bearing witness, preaching salvation, living the faith – but also sometimes fearful, persecuted, burdened by human weakness, these women were emboldened by Jesus' message and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Join with others in the congregation to learn about these early believers. Yes, the focus of this Bible Study will be on women, but it is an opportunity for anyone with curiosity about how the early Church struggled and grew, spreading The Word of God throughout the trials and challenges of two thousand years of history. All are welcome!

In Wallace Chapel, on Monday evenings: October 7 and 21; November 4 and 25 – from 7:00 to 8:30.

Please email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway annemarie@hillschurch.org if you are interested in attending.

CONSIDER BECOMING A NEW MEMBER AMBASSADOR

Do you enjoy meeting people and making others feel welcome? Please become a "New Member Ambassador" and help us extend warm hospitality to the newest members of our church family.

Together, we'll devise strategies to integrate new members into our congregation while enjoying their company and making new friends. New members, you are warmly invited to join us too!



For more information, please contact Sarah Howe (sarfair@gmail.com) or Sarah Pedersen (pedersenfamily6@verizon.net).

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 3, we remember those who over the past year passed from this life to the larger life in the nearer presence of God, by reading their names aloud in our worship service. If you'd like the names of your loved ones included, call or email the church office by 5:00 p.m. **on Tuesday, October 29.**

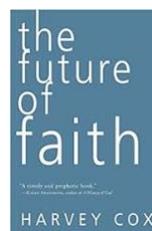
**COMING THIS FALL: FOCUS ON FAITH
A CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP
CHOOSE EITHER MORNING OR EVENING SESSIONS – WHICHEVER WORKS BEST
FOR YOU**

This fall, Matt, Anne Marie, and Judy will focus on books that illuminate faithful living, whether through the study of theology, spirituality, or pastoral care.

Due to the renovation work currently underway, we are waiting until October to begin this series – allowing plenty of time for reading and reflecting on the selected texts in advance. So, here is a preview of the books we will be discussing.

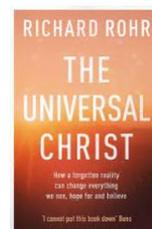
Monday, October 28

Morning: 10-11:15 am,
Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox
Led by: Rev. Matt Wooster



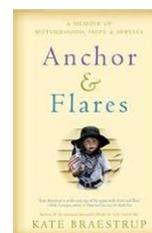
Monday, November 18

Morning: 10-11:15 am,
Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr
Led by: Rev. Judy Swahnberg



Monday, January 27, 2020

Morning: 10-11:15 am,
Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm
Text: *Anchor and Flares* by Kate Braestrup
Led by: Rev. Anne Marie Holloway



MAKE VOLUNTEERING IN CHURCH SCHOOL YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!

Volunteering in Church School is an opportunity:

- To have fun,
- To discover abilities you didn't even know you had,
- To strengthen your own faith, as you strengthen the children's,
- To get to know more people in our church – adults and children, alike,
- To build friendships with the other Church School teachers, and
- To help to keep our church community healthy and strong.

Volunteers make a big difference in a child's life.
Please consider teaching. The children are waiting for you.

Don't be afraid. We make teaching easy! To support our Church School teachers, we provide:

- Curriculum materials for all classes.
- Teacher training and orientation before your teaching month begins.
- Ongoing support and guidance – on an as-needed basis, from both the clergy and Sally Tomasetti, Coordinator of Children's Ministry.

And don't worry. You won't have to miss hearing the Sunday morning Worship Service. Church School volunteers are able to attend the first 15 minutes of Sunday Worship with their children – and all Worship Services are recorded, making it possible for you to enjoy the balance of the service at your convenience.

Visits to current Church School classes can be arranged, so that anyone thinking about teaching can observe and talk to current teachers and shepherds.

For more information, contact Sally: Sallyt@hillschurch.org, or sign up to help at the Children's Ministry table.

“MY NAME IS ‘ŌPŪKAHA‘IA”

SPECIAL PROGRAM – NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 11:30 A.M. IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM



On Sunday, October 13, the Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives will present a cultural and theatrical program in association with the bicentennial of the departure of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions' (ABCFM) Pioneer Company from New England to the Sandwich Isles (Hawai'i) in 1819.

Please stay after Worship on the 13th for a commemoration of the bicentennial of the Sandwich Islands Mission Hawaiian with a special performance of "My Name is 'Ōpūkaha'ia," a one-person dramatic portrayal of the young Hawaiian who inspired the ABCFM mission, forever tying New England to Hawai'i.

The story of 'Ōpūkaha'ia is instrumental in understanding the history of 19th century Hawai'i and its connection to New England.

Moses Goods, one of Hawai'i's finest actors, presents a theatrical performance which portrays

the personal journey that Henry Obookiah experienced and the long-reaching influence this journey had on the history of Hawai'i. His performance has reached wide audiences in Hawaii and will be touring throughout New England during the month of October 2019.

The Hills Church will host this production **on Sunday, October 13, following worship**. A light lunch will be provided, and there will be time for dialogue following the 30 minute performance by Moses Goods.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN - NEXT MEETING TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19TH 7:30-9PM

We love our new focus, continuing the conversation started by one of our minister's sermons. As you listen to sermons over the next weeks, what moved or intrigued you that would like to talk about some more? We are a group of diverse women, from 6 different countries, Hills Church members and non-members from multiple faith backgrounds who join together to listen and share our traditions, ideas, questions about faith topics. Come and bring your unique voice or just listen. All women of the church (members and non-members) are welcome. Location: TBD - stay tuned.

LOGISTICS INFORMATION ABOUT CHURCH SCHOOL FOR OCTOBER:

Our Church School children and youth enjoyed being in the Community Center for the month of September! Thank you for your support and patience as we continue to provide alternate sacred spaces for our church school, children and youth, during this time of transition! We are delighted to share with you the news of our plans to begin moving back into the Parish House on October 20th; however, church school will not begin on the third floor of the Parish House until November 3rd!

In the meantime, our plans for October are to hold our church school classes and events in the Assembly Room, Wallace Chapel and the Preschool wing.

After worship, our volunteers and staff will bring our children and youth in grades K-8 back to the Assembly Room, where families can pick up their children and then enjoy a time of fellowship. Our pre-K children can be picked up directly from their preschool classroom location!

Please take a look at the October Church School Schedule below:

10/6- World Communion Sunday, 2nd and 3rd Graders Special Communion Celebration. Childcare and Pre-K class available.

10/13- All ages invited to remain in worship. No church school. Childcare and Pre- K class available.

10/20- Serve Sunday, an all church school mission project held in the assembly room during worship.

10/27- An all ages Worship Service held in the Wallace Chapel. **After worship**, our volunteers and staff will bring our children and youth back to the Assembly Room, where families can pick up their children and then enjoy a time of fellowship together.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

EXPLORE. CREATE. WONDER. SERVE.

CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR - WILL PRACTICE SUNDAY MORNINGS - BEFORE WORSHIP

The Hills Ringers will be meeting in Wallace Chapel until the renovation work is complete. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn a new skill and make music with friends! All ages grades 3+ are invited, beginners wanted. If interested in joining please contact Martha @ cpbranwell@gmail.com

If your child has a musical talent and would like to play during worship, we will honor them. Contact John Finney: Johnf@hillschurch.org to schedule.

BIBLES

How cool is it to get your own Bible? This year we present all fourth and fifth grade students with an age-appropriate Bible of their very own. The presentation of these Bibles will take place during the October 20 Worship Service before the children leave the service for their Church School classes. We would dearly like your fourth or fifth grader to be there. Please contact Sally if they can attend.

CLUBNIGHT

This is a fun night time gathering for kids in Grades 3 through 5 – and it is always a big hit with the kids. For this night to happen this year, we are looking for two helpers willing to form a team with Sally. If you are a young adult, a dad, a mom, or a fun loving older adult, we hope you will volunteer to share God's joy with this age group. We do games, we play sports, and we get messy – but mostly we build relationships.

Can you help? Our first gathering is **on Friday, October 11**, in conjunction with this year's Pumpkin unloading.

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS – OCTOBER 2019:



Our next **Middle School Youth Group** meeting is **this Sunday, October 6, from 4:30 to 6:00** for a program titled, **“The Problem With Popcorn.”** This time we will be **back at the Hills Church – in the Assembly Room** from 4:30-6:00pm. Join us for an evening of fun and discussions around how to deal with the things in life that bring us stress! We will also begin sign ups for those eighth grade youth group members who wish to join us for our Service Trip to Colorado in June!

SPECIAL NOTE: On **Friday, October 11, this year’s Pumpkins** arrive at the Hills Church! Please be sure to sign up [HERE](#) to volunteer and help cover the front lawn with pumpkins! Pumpkins proceeds go toward supporting our youth ministry programs and local organizations supported by our Christian Service Support Board! Be sure to join us for this awesome event! (This will take the place of our Middle School Youth Group Program on October 13.)

YOUTH LEADER VOLUNTEERS: We are looking for additional Youth Leaders to join us! If you are interested in walking alongside this awesome group of teens as they learn, grow and faithfully gather, please email Rev. Anne Marie Holloway: annemarie@hillschurch.org.

Here are some Middle School Youth Group **SPECIAL OCTOBER DATES** to mark on your calendars:

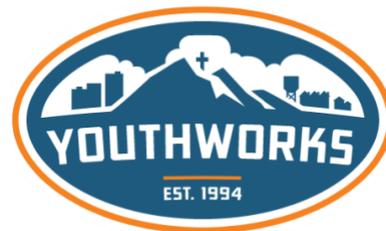
October 13 Feeding the Homeless with the Outdoor Church (Both Middle School and High School Youth can join us!)

October 19 Boda Borg Adventure Trip at 6:30 p.m.

A SPECIAL YOUTH SERVICE TRIP 2020 ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to offer all Hills Church Youth in grades 8-12 an opportunity to participate in a week-long service trip to Alamosa Colorado – **Sunday, June 28, 2020 through Friday, July 3.**

We will be teaming up with Youth Works, a wonderful organization that specializes in working with churches to provide teens with Christ-centered youth service trips.



Our Pumpkin Patch Fundraising efforts over the past few years have made it possible to offer this service trip at minimal cost to our youth and volunteers. The Hills Church will cover 90% of the cost of our trip!

(How awesome is that?)

Our group will work the entire week side by side with other organizations to meet the ongoing needs of those facing food insecurity and homelessness.

We will also have a day on our trip when our teens will be able to visit some of the natural wonders of the area, including Colorado’s Sand Dunes National Park and a local hot springs.

Please reach out to the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway for more information!

Email: annemarie@hillschurch.org

Cell/text: 508-404-0287

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet Wednesday evening, October 16, from 7:30-8:45 for our first “Dinner and Conversation” YG meeting.



At each of our monthly meetings, our Senior High Youth Group members will join with our new Confirmands for “Dinner and Conversations!” The location, menu and topic of discussion will vary from meeting to meeting – but for this one, you can count on pizza and a yummy dessert – in the WHCC Board Room.

If you cannot make our once a month Wednesday evening gatherings, do not fear! There will be multiple local service opportunities and fun events scheduled each month for our youth group members!

AND BE SURE THESE SPECIAL DATES ARE ON YOUR CALENDARS ...

October 11th Pumpkins Arrive!

October 13th Feeding the Homeless with the Outdoor Church

October 20th Serve at Rosie’s Place at 3:00. We had an awesome turnout last year! Please reach out to Anne Marie if you are able to serve with us again!

November 2nd Trip to Boston to see Blue Man Group

**For more information about Youth Group Programming at the Hills Church, please contact the Rev. Anne Marie Holloway – annemarie@hillschurch.org.

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, October 3

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

FRIDAY, October 4

- 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Connections (at the home of Mimi D'Angelo, 182 Cedar Street, Wellesley)

SATURDAY, October 5

SUNDAY, October 6 – World Communion Sunday

- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour
- 3:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, October 7

- 7:00 p.m. Women in the Book of Acts
- 7:30 p.m. Board of Deacons

TUESDAY, October 8

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Church Council

WEDNESDAY, October 9

- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class – Dinner and Conversation
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, October 10

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

PUBLICATION DEADLINE - HILLS CHURCH WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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.

Submissions are due Fridays, by 5:00 p.m.