

Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 54, January 16, 2020

www.hillschurch.org

OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES

ANNUAL MEETING PREP. – OPEN FORUMS

2020 Budget Review
2020 Construction Plans
Capital Campaign
and more

This Sunday, January 19, at 8:30 a.m., in the Reception Room

ALL-CHURCH SERVICE WEEKEND IS THIS WEEKEND

January 18, 19, 20

(Please see pages 4 and 5 for more information.)

WHCC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 26 – In the Assembly Room
With refreshments and fellowship.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES TO DATE TOP \$4,000,000



At this past Sunday's kick-off event for the church's "Generation to Generation: One in Spirit" Capital Campaign, Steven Patrick, Campaign Chair, announced that the first of the three phases of the campaign had already brought in \$4.2MM in pledges!

In a Message from the Office of the Moderator released earlier this week, Mary Hill Canavan, Chris Stowell, and Gintas Vildzius commented that "these excellent results are very encouraging and bode well for the remaining phases of the Campaign!"

Next steps in the Capital Campaign include continuing personal outreach – and Commitment Sunday on Sunday, March 8.

TUESDAY MORNING MEDITATION – TUESDAYS, AT 9:30 A.M. – IN THE RECEPTION ROOM

Connecting in Community with Each Other

In addition to the physical and spiritual benefits of meditation, there is another benefit, often unexpected yet just as vital to our health and well being. As noted by one member when asked why she came to Morning Meditation, she remarked, “I try not to let the busyness take over my day and this time on Tuesday morning helps me to reconnect with others and meet new people I wouldn’t meet otherwise. When I have felt disconnected, this time helps me to reconnect.”

This time we spend in quiet stillness is also time spent connecting with each other and what better place to experience this beloved community than at church, where we come as we are able, just as we are....

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

FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help! Our next hosting week is February 2 through February 9, and we will host again April 26 through May 3.

We have three (3) very busy families coming to stay with us; four (4) adults and seven (7) children! And a fourth family could join at any time! Sign-ups are now live on CERVIS for both hosting times. Link for volunteers is: <http://cerv.is/m?0002>

Any questions, please contact: Tricia Frank at pdfrank@comcast.net or Neely Dodge at nadodge@me.com

Many Family Promise volunteer positions require training - but not all. The next Family Promise Training Sessions is Tuesday, February 4, at the Family Promise Day Center, 6 Mulligan St. in Natick. Just E-mail lmarthinsen@verizon.net to sign up.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, AT 8:45, IN THE BOARD ROOM

The Membership Ministry Team invites you to attend our next Membership Class **on Sunday morning, January 26, before the Worship Service – at 8:45 a.m.** – 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.

If you are interested in participating in this class – or just want to know more about membership at the Hills Church in general – please contact Donna Maley at maley15@aol.com so we are able to arrange materials (and childcare, if needed).

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS FOR WOMEN

NEXT MEETING: NEXT TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 - FROM 7:30 TO 9:00PM

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 you would like to talk about some more? We are a group of diverse women, from six 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 alike) are welcome. Location: Board Room

CHILDREN’S BOOK COLLECTION

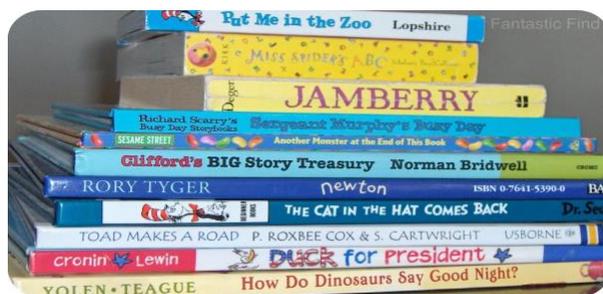
The church is collecting children's books throughout the month of February for the benefit of The Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic.htm

The children's books you donate will be given to children receiving treatment at the Clinic – or to their siblings who are waiting there to lend moral support.

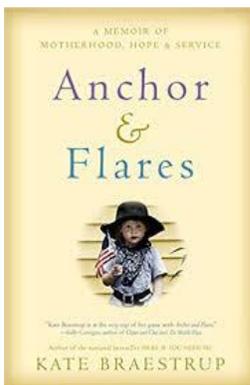
Collection bins will be inside the church entrances for your new and gently used children's books.

Questions? Contact Donna McCabe dmccabe4@comcast.net



DON'T MISS THE NEXT GATHERING OF OUR CLERGY-LED BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP!

MONDAY, JANUARY 27 – LED BY REV. ANNE MARIE HOLLOWAY



Choose either the morning or evening session, whichever works best for you:

Morning: 10-11:15 am,

Evening: 7:30-8:45 pm

Text: Anchor and Flares by Kate Braestrup

Led by: Rev. Anne Marie Holloway

In the Reception Room

THANKS FROM THE ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR!

The Christian Service Board would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of the church's Alternative Gift Fair in December. Your contributions raised slightly more than \$3,500 to support the church's partnerships with the African Indian Alliance, Honduras Hope, and the WHCC Women's Ministry.

- **African Indian Alliance:** Your purchase of our educational notecards will help cover scholarship expenses (school fees, uniform, books, boarding, and toiletry expenses) to educate 15 economically disadvantaged Siddi primary and secondary school students in SW India and help offset teacher and staff salary expenses for even more students. In addition, five students are pursuing advanced education with your assistance – either post-secondary academic education or technical training, such as tailoring, which will provide them with a livelihood so that they may provide for their families. In the past, AIA has sponsored nurses, teachers, lawyers, social workers, and Christian religious leaders. Our understanding with the recipients is that once they have completed their education they will return to the Siddi community to help others advance economically and socially. We are excited to begin putting your gifts to good use and we thank you for your generosity!
- **Honduras Hope:** Your purchase of the handcrafted pine needle baskets and additional donations will help Honduras Hope continue its important work with economically and politically marginalized families in Honduras. The baskets were made by members of the Women's Cooperative in Plan Grande, a reservation for the indigenous Tolupan people. Honduras Hope purchases the baskets from the women for a fair-trade value and sells them in the US. The women are also pursuing local markets for their baskets. In addition to generating income for their families, this micro-business teaches small business skills, brings lasting economic change to the entire community, and empowers the women who participate. This is important work, for as a 2006 UNICEF report notes, "When women are

empowered to lead full and productive lives, children and families prosper.” Thank you for your support...and enjoy the beautiful baskets!

- Women’s Ministry: Your purchase of potholders, aprons and other handmade items raised funds that will be donated to charities that support women and families in need, both locally and internationally. Recently, we have made gifts to Honduras Hope to support a nutrition program, and to Help Kids India to support Little Lilie's Creche which serves marginalized children in rural Tamil Nadu, S. India. In addition, you have supported a thriving group within the Hills Church community, the Hills Quilters. We repurpose donated fabric and supplies and learn about sustainable textile practices as well as enjoying fellowship and creativity.

Thank for your support!

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.

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



What better way to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. than to join with the church community to lend a hand in service.

Join us Martin Luther King weekend for three special opportunities to serve. An opportunity to stir your heart for the way God is calling you to reach your church, your family and your city.

“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know about Plato and Aristotle... or Einstein’s Theory of Relativity ... or the Second Theory of Thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.” — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Saturday January 18
8:30 to 3:00**

Do you have a few hours this Saturday, the 18th? If you do, please come participate in our church work day.

With only a few hours, you could make a big difference by helping to spruce up various areas in the church which could really benefit from some “sprucing.” Here is a short list of some of the things you could do:

- Paint the two bathrooms closest to the west entrance.
- Paint the stairs at the east entrance.
- Clean out and organize “the shed” – and a few closets.

We will gather at 8:30 – and finish by 3:00 – but if you can only give a few hours, don’t worry. Come by at any time – and we will help you make sure you are able to make the biggest difference in the time you do have. No sign up is required.

Come in your work clothes – and enjoy rolling your sleeves up with your Hills Church friends.

Contact Elaine Vildzius-vildzius@gmail.com, Andy Wilson – aw6022@gmail.com, or Alex Kolb – kolbalex@gmail.com with any questions.

Sunday January 19

One hour of service. After worship we will gather as a church family, have light refreshments then go forth for an hour of service. There are many projects designed to help the church and others in the wider community. All projects are on site and stationed around the church. Projects are designed for young people, old people, and everyone in-between. After the hour or so, we will regather, review and close with prayer. There will be many hands-on projects. All will start in the Assembly room at 11:30 Sunday morning. Donations will be collected for some projects. Please see posters in the Assembly room.

Monday January 20, 2020

Participate in the annual Cambridge MLK Day of Service – from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Central Square, Cambridge. Meet at City Hall

.Join other families for an afternoon of hands-on service projects! Make fleece scarves and blankets for homeless children and adults. Make Valentines for elders and veterans. Sort food, winter clothing, books and toiletries for people in need and more.

And please don’t come empty handed! Bring a can of food, gently used winter clothing or a children’s book for someone in need. A great family day to serve. All ages welcome. For tickets contact: Sallyt@hillschurch.org

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020

The Members of the First Congregational Church in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, qualified to vote, are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of said church will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at approximately 11:00 a.m., immediately following the Sunday worship service, to act upon the following articles:

Article I. To choose, if necessary, a chairperson to preside over said meeting.

Article II. To hear and act upon the reports of the clerk, treasurer, auditors, Church Council, Support Boards, and of such other officers and governing bodies as may be present.

Article III. To elect a rising moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, auditor, and such other officers and members of governing bodies as the Church may require for the ensuing year.

Article IV. Completed HVAC, Fire Protection, and Renovation Work in the Parish House – Legally-Mandated Fire Protection Work Still Needed in the Balance of the Church Complex

- To hear reports from:
 - the Master Plan Committee on the construction work completed in the Parish House during 2019, and
 - Church Council on the circumstances leading to the issuance of a related construction permit conditioned upon the Church’s commitment to complete the installation of code-compliant fire protection systems throughout the balance of the Church complex by June 2021 (the “June 2019 Construction Permit”).
- To affirm the actions taken by Church Council in June 2019 in connection with the issuance of the June 2019 Construction Permit.
- To hear and act upon a recommendation by Church Council to:
 - Complete the fire protection work required by the June 2019 Construction Permit during the summer of 2020; and
 - Finance the cost of such work, which was initially estimated to be \$800,000 and is currently estimated to be \$1,060,000, in accordance with funding recommendations to be made by the Stewards Support Board.

Article V. Remaining HVAC Work in the Balance of the Church Complex, including Converting from Oil to Gas – and from Steam to Hot Water.

To hear and act upon a recommendation from Church Council to:

- Complete, concurrently with the fire safety work described in Article IV above, the remaining HVAC system work needed in areas of the Church other than the Parish House; and
- Finance the cost of the HVAC system work, which was initially estimated to be \$1,050,000 and is currently estimated to be \$1,440,000, in accordance with funding recommendations to be made by the Stewards Support Board.

Article VI. To review and act upon the Budget for the coming year, as presented by the Stewards Support Board and supported by Church Council, to meet the expenses, the benevolences and any indebtedness of the Church, with funds to be raised as indicated.

Article VII. To transact any other business not included in the above which may legally come before the meeting.

Richard J. Sweeting, Clerk
January 14, 2020

TRANSITIONING TO ANNUAL MEETING

General Instructions

- 1) **Copies of this year’s Annual Report** are available in the North and South Narthices, in the foyer just outside the Reception Room, and on the rectory table in the North Mezzanine of the Assembly Room. Please share with those sitting beside you.
- 2) A light luncheon will be served in the Assembly Room following next Sunday’s Worship Service – and this year’s Annual Meeting itself will be held there.
- 3) The materials which will be reviewed at the Annual Meeting itself will be in white envelopes on the tables we will be using during the light luncheon.

- 4) The service will be shortened to accommodate those who have after-church commitments. We strongly encourage you to stay for the Annual Meeting.
- 5) Childcare will be provided on the third floor of the Parish House during the meeting.
- 6) When the Moderator calls for the Annual Meeting to begin, please give her your full attention. We will need to perform a count for a quorum, and we need people in their seats to do so.
- 7) The meeting will begin when the quorum has been counted and confirmed.

Annual Meeting Procedural Guidelines

- 1) Only members are allowed to vote. Friends of the church are welcome to listen in and participate by speaking. You may sit anywhere.
- 2) The meeting agenda is the Call to the Annual Meeting – reprinted above.
- 3) Each agenda item will be brought to the floor by the Moderator, who will ask for the appropriate person—generally, the committee chair—to make a motion. That motion will be seconded, and then we will have discussion. Generally, the person who made the motion, or a designee, will speak first.
- 4) If you wish to speak to a particular agenda item, you may contact the Moderator in advance, and she will make sure that you are given time to speak.
- 5) Raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak. Before speaking, wait for an usher to deliver a microphone to you. Tell us your name—even if everybody knows you. Speakers should be direct, and to-the-point.
- 6) When all who wish to be heard have been heard, or a motion to “move the question” has been made and passed, we will have a voice vote.

YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR JANUARY

(Middle School Youth Group, Confirmation, High School Conversation Circles, Service Opportunities and MORE...)



Sunday, January 19: MLK Weekend of Service! Join us for worship. Then participate in one of the many on-site service projects offered! (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) Lunch is included! All Youth and Families Invited to Participate!

3:00 p.m.: High Schoolers are invited to serve offsite at Rosie's Place.

Wednesday, January 22: A Confirmation Dinner and Discussions Class focused on the topic of "Service."

Friday, January 24: Middle School Youth Group Game Night! Join us for Pizza and Board Games from 6:30-8:30 p.m.!

Sunday, January 26: Hill Church Annual Meeting – No Evening Middle School Youth Group Meeting.

Wednesday, January 29: Confirmation Class Night Out! Details TBA

*Please reach out to Rev. Anne Marie if you have any questions!
Email: annemarie@hillschurch.org or Cell: 508-404-0287*

HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

THURSDAY, January 16

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. New Beginnings
- ...7:30 p.m. Christian Service Support Board

This Sunday's Scripture Readings

Psalm 40:1-11

John 1:35-42

FRIDAY, January 17

- 10:30 a.m. Caring for the Caregiver
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

SATURDAY, January 18

- 8:30 a.m. Property Maintenance Team Projects – Onsite Church Volunteer Opportunities

SUNDAY, January 19 – All Church Service Day

- 8:30 a.m. Annual Meeting Prep – Open Forum
- 9:00 a.m. Hills Ringers Practice (Children's Bell Choir)
- 9:00 a.m. Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Church School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Community Hour – MLK Jr. Weekend After-Church Service Projects
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, January 20 – Legal Holiday (Church Office Closed)

- 2:00 p.m. Cambridge MLK Day of Service

TUESDAY, January 21

- 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Clergy Pastoral Care Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Conversations for Women

WEDNESDAY, January 22

- 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

THURSDAY, January 23

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 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.