

# Events at the Hills

WELLESLEY HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Volume 4, Issue 55, January 23, 2020

[www.hillschurch.org](http://www.hillschurch.org)

## OPPORTUNITIES

### WHCC 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

**This Sunday, January 26** – In the Assembly Room – After Worship  
With refreshments and fellowship.

### 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

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## **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 near you.
- 2) A light luncheon will be served in the Assembly Room following this morning'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 are in white envelopes on the tables we will be using during the luncheon.
- 4) Today's service is abbreviated 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.

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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

The Membership Ministry Team invites you to attend our next Membership Class **this 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](mailto:maley15@aol.com) so we are able to arrange materials (and childcare, if needed).

### MEN'S GROUP 30'S – 50'S

#### **NEXT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, AT THE HOME OF MATT WOOSTER**

The men's group for members and friends of the church ages 30's – 50's meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Facilitated by Rev. Matt Wooster, this group focuses on building friendships and growing together in faith. **The next meeting of this group will take place next Wednesday, January 29.** To RSVP and join the email list, contact Matt Wooster at [mattw@hillschurch.org](mailto:mattw@hillschurch.org).

### VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT RESTORE – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1



So, you don't have all day to give to Habitat but you still want to help? Come join us at ReStore on Saturday, February 1.

ReStore is the home improvement store operated by Habitat for Humanity. The proceeds from the store help to fund the houses they build. We will leave from the church parking lot at 8:45 a.m. and return by 2:30 .p.m. While at ReStore we will organize shelves and do some light lifting.

Contact Elaine Vildzius [vildzius@gmail.com](mailto:vildzius@gmail.com) or contact the church office to sign up. You must be 16 years old or older to participate.

### FAMILY PROMISE NEWS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

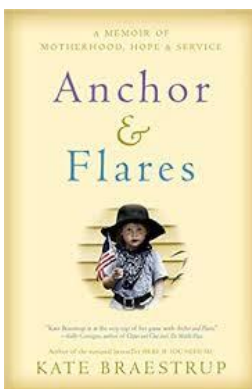
**We need your help!** Our next hosting week is February 2 through February 9, and we will host again April 26 through May 3.

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](mailto:pdfrank@comcast.net) or Neely Dodge at [nadodge@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:lmarthinsen@verizon.net) to sign up.

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

**LIVE STREAMING THE HILLS CHURCH SERVICES?  
EXPLORATORY MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – AFTER CHURCH!**

Come join with us and share your expertise, questions, concerns, or just plain excitement about the idea of streaming our Worship Services live over the Internet, and offering on-line copies that could be replayed at other times of the week.

Many of us consider this as a way to make sure members and former members who live far away – or who are shut-in – or who are otherwise unable to get to Sunday morning services – are able to continue to participate in the life of the church they love.

We will be gathering after church on Sunday, February 2, at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, well before the Super Bowl.

For questions, contact Bill Spencer at [not.billspencer@gmail.com](mailto:not.billspencer@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:mhillcanavan@gmail.com) or Rev. Judy Swahnberg at [judy@hillschurch.org](mailto:judy@hillschurch.org).

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



At the January 12 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 last 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.

## SERVING OTHERS AT ROSIE'S PLACE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 19



**Look at all of these smiling faces, including Kristin Toffer, Noel Stavaridis, Mary Hill Canavan, Jeff Thomas, Anna Thomas, Angie Hemmerle, Kevin Groppe and lots of happy children serving others.**

Because of this small, but mighty, group of Hills Church volunteers, meals were provided for 82 people at Rosie's Place this past Sunday. This Hills Church team got the job done -- and they did it well – serving as a beautiful example of what it means to be active participants in the building of God's Kingdom in the here and the now! **A very big "Thank You" to all involved.**

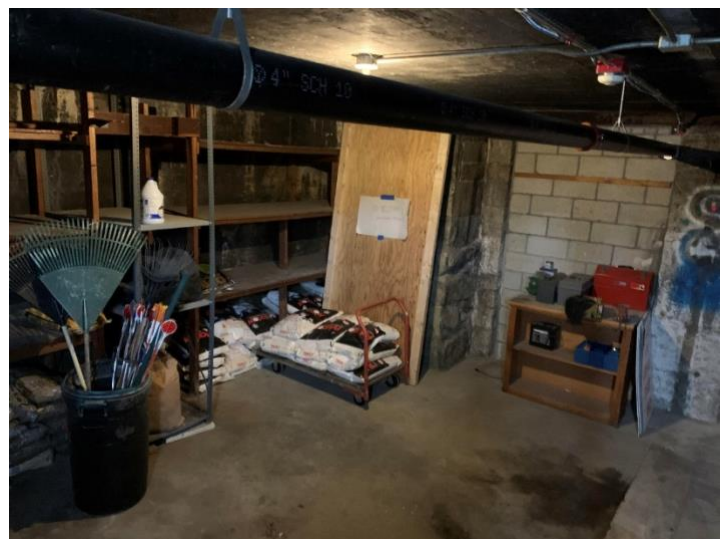
**ALL OF THIS "STUFF" WAS IN THE "SHED"**





**UNTIL THESE PEOPLE:**

- Rob Andrews
- Nick Bahns
- Paul Bruchez
- Carol Cole
- Jerry Cole
- David Dinwoodey
- Mary Ellen Dinwoodey
- Alex Kolb
- Marilyn Nutting
- David Otten
- Nancy Simons
- Martha Stowell
- Elaine Vildzius
- Gintas Vildzius
- Andy Wilson



**CLEANED OUT THE SHED AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE THIS!**

Thank you, All – for a great job on the shed – and for painting the two rest rooms near the west entrance – and for cleaning out that nightmare of a closet between the nursery school and the stage in the Assembly Room. **WELL DONE!**

**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](http://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](mailto:dmccabe4@comcast.net)

**MEET OUR NEW HILLS CHURCH TEACHING STAFF - NICK SLYE AND SANDY MADDEN!**

**With great joy we formally introduce our new Hills Church School Teaching Staff!**

Being a faith formation teacher or volunteer is an important role. Sunday School teachers shine the light of Christ – showing every child God loves them just as they are. What a wonderful blessing it is to be a small part of that!

**MEET NICK SLYE: OUR “CREATE” STATION ARTIST AND TEACHER**



“Working at the Hills Church has been an incredible blessing to me! I am blessed to have this opportunity to teach God’s word in such a creative and fun way with all the wonderful kids at Hills.

Over the past few months, I have seen how creative each and every one of our children is, and it is so encouraging to see it used for God’s glory!

It is truly a gift to be able to teach God’s word in such an applicable way. To serve as part of such a strong community and charity-driven church is a blessing and a half!

Thank you for inviting me into your loving church family, God bless”

*-Nick Slye*

**AND “WONDER” TEACHER**

**MEET SANDY MADDEN! OUR *GODLY PLAY* STORY TELLER**

“The primary thought that comes to mind when I think about what I love about teaching Sunday School is “WONDER”.

I’ve had the wonderful opportunity to re-visit stories of the Bible with the kids and share in their wonder.

Our children have such clarity and honesty in their questions and observations.

Watching as the children wonder about these ageless stories of our faith is such a gift -- thoroughly enjoyable!

Experiencing the joyful energy that the kids bring, has been a wonderful reminder to me that we all need to make time for joy and playfulness in our own lives!”

*~Sandy Madden*



## YOUTH MINISTRY HAPPENINGS FOR JANUARY And a Sneak Peek at February!

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



**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:** 6, 7, and 8 Church School meets. Hill Church Annual Meeting

No Evening Middle School Youth Group Meeting.

**Monday, January 27:** Clergy Book Club with Rev. Anne Marie. *Anchors and Flares*, Kate Braestrup – Meeting Options are 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 29:** Confirmation Class Night Out! Let's go bowling! Details TBA

### LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

**Sunday, February 9:** Sign up to serve with the Outdoor Church. (Email Rev. Anne Marie. Find permission slip [here](#).)

**Friday, February 14:** Family Valentine's Day Dinner Date

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



## HILLS CHURCH CALENDAR

### **THURSDAY, January 23**

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

This Sunday's Scripture Readings  
Isaiah 9:1-3  
Matthew 4:17-24

### **FRIDAY, January 24**

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

### **SATURDAY, January 25**

- 8:30 a.m. Deacons' Retreat

### **SUNDAY, January 26 – Annual Meeting Sunday**

- 8:45 a.m. Membership Class
- 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. Annual Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting

### **MONDAY, January 27**

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Book Group
- 7:30 p.m. Clergy Book Group

### **TUESDAY, January 28**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, January 29**

- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
- 7:30 p.m. Men's Group 30's – 50's
- 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir

### **THURSDAY, January 30**

- 10:00 a.m. Clergy Worship Planning
- 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](mailto:cynthia@hillschurch.org), or call the Church Office at 781-235-4424.

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