



**THE CONNECTOR**  
“Welcoming All...  
Making Disciples...  
Taking Christ to the World”  
January 13, 2010  
Vol. 2 Number 1



**WORSHIP at 10:00**  
**Followed by Sunday School at 11:15.**



**JOHN NILSEN in concert!**  
**Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

Hillview is delighted to be one of the concert stops for pianist, John Nilsen. John is well-known to us in the Northwest, especially because he is one of our own—having shared his talents in most of our Oregon/ Idaho Methodist churches. You will want to invite friends and family to this evening of music. There is no charge for admission (a free-will offering will be received and John’s CDs will be available for sale. Come enjoy!

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## Our Church Staff

Pastor	Barbara Nixon	288-1394 <small>Hm</small> 991-8464 <small>Cell</small> revbabs2000@gmail.com
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	Jeff Thompson	208-830-5777 jeff.thompson@hillviewmethodist.org
Custodian	Mariya Gavrilutsa	
Nursery Director	Peggy Sheldon	888-4566

### TREASURER'S REPORT-

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>YTD (+/-)</u>
Jan	\$24,726	\$28,566	\$ -3,840	\$ -\$3,840
Feb	\$26,313	\$29,180	\$ -2,867	\$ -\$6,707
Mar	\$33,011	\$27,772	\$ +5,329	\$ -\$1,468
Apr	\$32,026	\$27,184	\$ +4,842	\$ +\$3,374
May	\$34,160	\$28,716	\$ +5,444	\$ +\$8,818
Jun	\$26,880	\$28,978	\$ -2,098	\$ +\$6,716
Jul	\$24,105	\$29,725	\$ -5,620	\$ +\$1,096
Aug	\$36,661	\$29,062	\$ +7,599	\$ +\$8,695
Sep	\$27,030	\$34,739	\$ -7,452	\$+ 986
Oct	\$26,694	\$31,856	\$ -5,162	\$- \$4,176
Nov	\$44,275	\$30,689	\$ +13,586	\$ +\$9,410

### A great month!

If you have questions about this information contact  
Sam Goodwin, 376-5383.

## **Random Musings from Pastor Barbara**

If you were away over the holidays and didn't attend one of Hillview's three Christmas Eve services, you might not know about the elephant that appeared in the nativity on the altar. He is a little gift from me and there's a story that goes with him...

When I was pastor in Junction City, I bought a lighted angel lawn decoration for the Christmas season. She was made from wire and white lights—and you saw her from the side--- a silhouette with a candle in her extended hands. I thought she looked quite sweet in my yard and kept her lit every evening. One night after some church folk had been Christmas caroling, everyone was to come to my house (across the street from the church) for cocoa and cookies. Anna, one of the children asked which house was mine and I told her it was the house with the angel in front of it. As she approached the house, she said to her mom, "That's not an angel--- THAT'S AN ELEPHANT!" In a way, Anna was right. The angel's halo and head looked like ears and the skirt looked like fat legs. The extended hands with the candle looked like its trunk. Once we all saw the elephant, we had to work at seeing the angel again.

As we thought about it, we liked the idea that there could have been an elephant at the stable that night. Jesus had come for ALL, especially the ones that don't seem to fit in. Plus, elephants never forget and we want the story to stay alive. Then there's the idea of the elephant in the room that no one mentions. God totally know all such elephants and we would do well to name them and offer them up to God. We also liked the elephant near the manger because God is full of surprises and there is so much we don't know.

Anyway, to make a long story short, within a couple of weeks, all the nativity scenes around the church had little elephants tucked in them, appearing from all sorts of sources. It was playful and surprisingly meaningful—and the tradition continues there, even now...

So, on Christmas Eve, I showed everyone my yard angel and told them the story and then, with the spirit of joy and fun, I offered the church an elephant for our beautiful nativity on the altar. He seemed to fit right in. And the sweetest thing that happened on the Sunday after Christmas was that a beautiful little carved elephant was placed in the offering plate by some playful soul (whose name happens to be Cheryl Richardson)!

In the grand scheme of things—growing lives of faith, doing Christ's work in the world, discovering how to bring the church and a needy world together—this little elephant story is a very small matter. But I offer it as an invitation to not only work together, but to play together as 2010 continues to unfold. Amen.

P.S. Both elephants are living in my office until next Christmas ☺

# HILLVIEW U.M.W. CALENDAR CORNER

## January Functions...

### Focus on Sudan

Hillview United Methodist Women

Unit Meeting, January 16, 10 am Church Library

January 31<sup>st</sup> Women's Sunday

## February Functions....

**February 7<sup>th</sup> VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES** 12 pm, Library

**February 9th Lady's Veterans Luncheon 11:30**

Check the UMW bulletin board and sign up 5 or 6 Hillview friends to take lunch to these special women. It is a fun, rewarding experience!

**February 20th Women's One-Day Retreat**

8:45 am -3 pm

**"Journaling as a Spiritual Practice"**

**February 21-22 Idaho Legislative Education Event**

**Poverty in Idaho**

Focusing on the legislative process, understanding poverty in Idaho, and an overview of legislation impacting the poor.

Registration forms are on the UMW bulletin board.

## MONTHLY CIRCLE MEETINGS

**Morning Book Group** 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the

month/ 10:00 am

Borders Books at the Mall

February book [The Zookeepers Wife](#)

March book [The Great Gatsby](#)

Contact person: George Ann Morris –  
853-2729

**Lydia Circle (Study Group)**

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 9:30am

Church Parlor

Judy Halverson 327-0541

**Fellowship Circle**

2nd Thursday of the month 7 pm

In members homes

Contact person: Betsy

Baughman

**Evening Book Club**

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month 6:30 pm

Church Kitchen/ Meal provided

February book [Hotel on the Corner of](#)

[Bitter and Sweet](#)

March book [The Known World](#)

Darlene Smith 376-5977

## Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger

Next Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger gathering is Thursday Jan. 21st 7:00pm at St. Mark's Catholic Church 7960 Northview Street in Boise. The topic will be **"Faith & Advocacy - What are the Myths?"** Come and ask all those questions you have and bring those who question the whole idea. Is it about Justice? What does our faith say about advocacy? Legislative updates will be shared too.

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger is sponsoring a **Hunger Awareness Day at the Idaho Capitol**

Monday Jan. 25th from 8:00am - 2:00pm on fourth floor. Join us to learn more from over 16 groups displaying the work they do against hunger in Idaho. If interested in helping that day please contact us at our e-mail.

Your **letters or calls to the Governor's Office** urging the extension of removal of the Asset Test for those applying for Food Stamp program are still needed. Please encourage others to write. Your voice is important for the least of these in Idaho.

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger



**Men's Retreat  
February 5-6-7  
Rush Cabin in Cascade**

**Sign up in the narthex**

**2009 Veterans Foot Locker Drive a Success,**  
**Thanks to Hillview**

Despite a tough recession and other demands on our time and treasure, Hillview members came through once again. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans Foot Locker Drive resulted in a strong outpouring of donations. Throws, blankets, crossword books, socks, toothpaste, shaving cream, sweat suits, Wal-Mart gift cards, first-class stamps, clothing items for our women veterans, and much more all came into the old green Army foot locker in the Narthex between Veteran's Day and December 17. The Youth Group inventory on December 13 confirmed a total of 545 new/like-new items were received, just a slight downturn from previous years. On December 18 the donations were taken to the Idaho State Veteran's Home and given to Phil Hawkins, the Home's Volunteer Coordinator. Foot Locker Drive coordinator **Ken Jenkins** and Youth Group leaders **Claire Chambers** (with Malcolm) and **Jeff Thompson** were ably assisted at the donation by Youth Group members **Hanna Berry, Maria Hanson, Nicole Pittz, Samantha Pittz, J.J. Rasmussen,** and **Kinsey Walt**. Also in attendance were former Youth Group member **Kat Rasmussen** and her fiancé **Bryce Gillespie**. The gifts were wrapped December 19 by Home volunteers and placed in the veteran's stockings on December 23. Thank you again on behalf of the 166 vets we helped this Christmas!

**Focus on Sudan**  
**Hillview United Methodist Women**  
**Unit Meeting, January 16, 10 am**  
**Church Library**

What is the current situation in Sudan? Come to our unit meeting to find out! Kaziah Sullivan, who is with the International Rescue Committee agency, will be our guest speaker addressing the issues surrounding Sudan. Kaziah works with refugees who are from Sudan and will share their perspectives of Sudan. **EVERYONE** is invited to learn about Sudan (yes, that includes men!)

## COMING IN LENT

**Invitation to Psalms**~~a 10-week in depth study of the Psalms on Thursdays, February 25 through April 19, 7:30 –9:00 PM following the Lenten Experiences in Prayer. The writers of the Psalms express the full range of human experiences and emotion. This study can be life-changing in our understanding of these sacred texts, God’s faithfulness, and ourselves. Please, sign up with Janine Watkins, 336-1991, or [janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org](mailto:janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org) by February 7th so books can be ordered.

### **Experiences in Prayer... Each Thursday during Lent 7:-7:30**

Pastor Barbara will be offering “Experiences in Prayer” during the first 30 minutes of the Psalms study each Thursday during Lent. You are welcome to come just for the prayer experience ( 7-7:30) just for the Psalm study (7:30-9) or for the combination of both (7-9).



**February 8<sup>th</sup> is Souper Bowl Sunday!** No that’s not a type-o. We really did mean “souper” bowl. Our youth will be standing by at the end of the service to collect money for the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Souper Bowl of Caring in giant soup pots. All money we raise stays in our own community...in fact, WE decide the charity it goes to. So mark your calendars, save your change. We want to make some noise and fill those pots!

**Have you wondered how to meet the neighbors who live around your church?** As churches age, the people who attend often move away, but still attend. The new neighbors may not be engaged in the church's activities unless the church people reach out to them. Here is the way that one church did it.

A Community Dinner was begun at Hillview United Methodist Church, Boise, in July, 2008. It was a vision of Darlene Smith. Her husband, Stuart Gustafson, helped her. On the fourth Wednesday night of each month it still happens. This is an interview of how and why it began and the results.

Int: Why did you start the Community Dinner?

Darlene: It started with a question. We had a person come to help us make an assessment of our church and what we wanted it to look like. He asked, "Do you know who your neighbors are?" Our church has lots of people in it who have moved out of the neighborhood and we don't know who our neighbors are. I envisioned what the church should look like and I saw a roof...no walls. The walls were keeping people out. I used to think, "How do we get people to come through the door? How do we open it up to everybody? A community dinner would help us get acquainted with our neighbors.

Int: How did you go about it?

Stuart: We started with publicity. We mapped out the territory that we would include. I literally counted out the houses. You can buy door hangers and with my background I knew how to get them made up and printed. We put out door to door publicity for three Dinners, July, August, and September.

We asked the Youth Group to take them door to door one time; another time it was the Scouts, and we sent them each out with about 100 houses to cover... we totaled about 500 houses that would receive invitations. Free Community Meal. Wednesday Evening. Hillview United Methodist Church. Outdoor Bar-b-que. Supervised Activities for Kids. We included the time and three dates, July, Aug, Sept. .

Int: You had a pretty good turnout as I remember.

Stuart: We also put signs on our own marquee; signs on the street; put up posters. We did this each quarter.

Darlene: We picked the fourth Wednesday because that was choir night and it seemed to work. People could come and then go to choir. I wasn't concerned about the food. I can cook. Church people brought salads and dessert. One night we did run out of food.

Int: Recently you have turned it over to someone else. How did that happen?

Darlene: After 15 months, it was time to have a church ministry team manage it. Our Council on Ministries is now running the meal.

Int: What are the benefits of the Community Dinner?

Darlene: I love to sit and talk to people. Hearing their stories is fascinating. I wish everyone would come and talk with the neighbors...interact with them. We need a new dynamic. I believe in community! At the School of Missions, the minister talked about expanding communion into community. Some people think our dinners are just for the poor. They are for everybody.

Stuart: There is another benefit. We refrigerate the leftovers and they are taken down to Corpus Christi (A day shelter for homeless) the next morning. They are delighted to have it.

Darlene: I asked about a dozen women to bring food for 20 rather than 12 so that we have some left over. People look forward to the dinners now. We hope to see more participation by church members.

Interview by Betty Luginbill; Commission on Unity and Interreligious Concerns

## **Upcoming Discussion in Jesus and Java Class on Helping the Homeless Begins January 17**

Have you ever passed a homeless person asking for help and wondered if you should drop in a dollar or two? "Servant or Sucker: Wise and Compassionate Ways to Help the Poor" is a series designed to provide answers to this problem. Each class starts with videos, approximately 10-15 minutes each, focusing on the realities of poverty such as concepts of time, relationships, money and values; a "poverty tour"; interviews with those who are homeless or poor; interviews with those who have helped and/or have been suckered; and steps viewers can take to be an effective servant without getting suckered. Discussion will follow as we try to sort out our roles in helping those in need. Join us in Room 3 at 11:15 a.m.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS~  
WOMEN'S ONE-DAY SPRING RETREAT,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2010, 8:45PM—3PM  
*"Journaling As a Spiritual Practice"***

- Do you ever feel intimidated by a blank page?
- Do you ever wonder what you can write about that will mean anything?
- Do you ever think you don't have time for this?
- Do you ever not want to go where journaling might take you emotionally or spiritually?
- Do you ever wonder if there might be a different way to journal than how you are doing it?

Bring a blank book ~ any size, color, design that appeals to you ~ and join us for a time of exploration, experimentation, and expression. Janine Watkins will facilitate this time which will have something to offer for novice and seasoned people. Contact Judy Halverson , 327-0541 for further details.

## **Sunday Morning Classes—11:15 am**

### **Classes for Adults:**

- *Journey Through the Bible*

Leader: Lilburn Wesche, David Barber and Robert Linkhart;  
(Library/Parlor)

This class is an in-depth, sequential study of the Bible, now studying Exodus.

- *Jesus and Java*

Leaders Janet Worthington and Ethyl Minnis; (room 3)

The class will be viewing a DVD series beginning Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. *Servant or Sucker? Wise and Compassionate Ways to Help the Poor* is a 5 week DVD series that will help viewers discern appropriate, Christ-centered actions when it comes to addressing poverty on a personal or organizational level. Included are realities of poverty such as the concepts of time, relationships, money and values; a “poverty tour”; interviews with those who are homeless or poor; interviews with those who have helped and/or have been suckered; and steps viewers can take to be an effective servant without getting suckered.

- *Simple Living*

Leaders Joe and Vicki Prin; (Youth House)

Simple Living class is viewing a DVD series, *Curing Affluenza*.

Tony Compola offers a cure for the on-the-go consumerism. He tells us about a cure documented in the Bible. You are invited to join in the discussions..

- *Pastor’s Forum*

Leader, Pastor Barbara; (Ballantyne Hall)

This class offers dialogue between Pastor Barbara and you about the sermon or at times there may be topics of relevance to our church around matters of peace and justice that call us to address.

Newcomers, one-timers are always welcome.

### **Youth Class**, (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Leaders Pam & John Lodal and Lynn McCoy; (Youth House)

LinC, Living in Christ, curriculum examines the latest music, movies, news, and current events through a biblical lens.

### **Children Class** (4yr.-5<sup>th</sup> grade)

Leaders Judy Halverson and Chris Angell; (Rm 10)

*The Way of the Child* is a new approach to helping children in their spiritual formation. A quiet, reflective environment with various stations to visit will be offered for our children.



## Alternative Christmas Gifts

Giving gifts that serve others honors the birth of Jesus and shows our concern for the whole family of God, and this year Hillview gave from the heart.

For **Corpus Christi House**, a hospitality day center in Boise - **\$600**.

To **Interfaith Sanctuary**, a non-judgmental shelter for the homeless in Boise - **\$600**

The **Becas con Bendiciones Honduran Scholarship Fund** - **\$1230** (when combined with donations already designated for this fund we now have money to sponsor 30 children for the 2010 school year.)

**World Hunger/Poverty UMCOR Advance 982920** which provides food to families in developing nations - **\$355** (enough to feed 8 families for one month)

This generous giving, **\$2785** in all, was more than triple that of last year. Hillview is a community that understands that Christmas is not about celebrating a baby born in a manger 2000 years ago. Christmas is about following the often-radical man who lived 2000 years ago and showed us how we must live. On behalf of these four recipients of your gifts, I say a



Living the Questions, an ongoing spiritual growth group, will begin a new 7-week study on Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parlor/library. *The System Belongs to God*, a DVD series by noted Bible scholar Walter Wink, is designed to help us understand how “the powers that be” influence us. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Gayle Woods ([gaylewoods5964@msn.com](mailto:gaylewoods5964@msn.com), 938-5964) or Janine Watkins ([Janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org](mailto:Janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org), 336-1991).

## ***Our Prayers***

*If you like to add someone to our Prayer Chain please call the church office (375-0392) or Linda Sherrets (377-3248 or linbud@juno.com).*

*As you pray please remember the entire family of those listed here and in your hearts*

*Pray with concern for - **Lewis & Trulah Mills—Ruth Green— John Stafford— Margaret Hartley.***

*Pray in sympathy with—**The family of Helen Johnstone***

*Pray for those serving beyond the local church: **Hillview's VIM Team***

*Pray for our seminary student—Janessa Chastain*



Please add these names of military to the list of those we pray for as they are away from family and friends serving their country - Jordan—Air Force-Iraq, Dustin Soper-Iraq, Cara Hammond—Air Force—Mississippi, Spec. Christopher Fabela—Army - Sgt. Willie Fabela- U.S.M.C.—Iraq.

## **VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES**

A long tradition at Hillview is remembering our young adults at Valentine's with a gift of a "care package". This outreach includes **all young adults**, (ages 18-23), not just college students and military personnel. We need current addresses and names. Please contact the church office or add current information to the list in the gathering area.

### **Donations needed:**

**Homemade cookies!** Please pre-wrap the cookies (small sandwich bags work well) in groups of 3 cookies/bag. A fun variety of cookies has been well received in past years! **Please be sure to have them at the church no later than 11 AM on Feb. 7th.**

Assembling the care packages will be on Sunday, Feb. 7th after Sunday School. Contact Judy Halverson, 327-0541 for information.

### **Young Adult Contact Information Needed!**

Identifying and having **correct** addresses for our Hillview young adults is the biggest challenge we have for the valentine care package project. Please call the office or check the young adult list that is in the church gathering area to add or correct a name and address.



Visit us online at [www.hillviewmethodist.org](http://www.hillviewmethodist.org)

Janessa Chastain, our seminary student, has created a blog to help us follow her progress. If you would like to check on her the link is <http://janessac.blogspot.com>

**Did You Know**—that you can contact your bank and have them send a check to Hillview as often as you specify (week, month, etc.), in the amount that you specify, and you don't have to worry about remembering to write a check?

**The service is free** and the bank will notify you in your monthly bank statement and/or they will email you when it is done. Contact your bank. It is easy to setup. Several have found that this works great!

### Lunch Bunch



We will meet on February 11 at 11:30am There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex or call the church office at 375-0392 to be added to the list.

**Pastor Barbara's Bible Study**—Will not meet on January 26th and 27th



### From the Mail

Thank you for your best wishes and for Jeannie Swenson and friends carol on the phone.

Love to all of you

Margaret Burris

Below is a wonderful poem Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her 'beauty tips.' It was read at her funeral years later.

For attractive lips,

    speak words of kindness.....

For lovely eyes,

    seek out the good in people.

For a slim figure

    share your food with the hungry.

For beautiful hair,

    let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.

For poise,

    walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone...

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.

Remember,

If you ever need a helping hand, you will find one at the end of each of your arms.

As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands; one for helping yourself and the other for helping others.