



**THE CONNECTOR**  
 “Welcoming All...  
 Making Disciples...  
 Taking Christ to the World”  
 November 25, 2009  
 Vol. 1 Number 10



**Advent Schedule**

**November 29, WORSHIP at 10:00  
 Followed by Sunday School at 11:15.**



This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, when we slowly, and without a lot of fanfare, usher in the season of anticipating Jesus’ birth. The theme this year:

PEACE in all the ways God offers it...

(Watch for more details of the season in the next newsletter.)



**UMW Christmas Gathering December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.**  
 There will be story telling and caroling. Good food and fellowship. Plan now to join us!



**Night of Music—December 6, 7PM**  
 Article inside

**Caroling Party December 12, 3PM**



**Longest night Service December 20, 6PM**  
 Article inside

**Christmas Eve Services  
 December 24, 5:30, 7 & 11 PM**

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## Our Church Staff

Pastor	Barbara Nixon	288-1394 <small>Hm</small> 991-8464 <small>Cell</small> revbabs2000@gmail.com
Minister of Congregational Care & Discipleship	Janine Watkins	336-1991 janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org
Director of Emerging Ministries	Jeff Thompson	208-830-5777 jeff.thompson@hillviewmethodist.org
Director of Music	Gene Lubiens	989-5981 glubiens@hotmail.com
Organist/Pianist	Suzanne Walch	
Secretary	Claudia Flora	375-0392 claudia.flora@hillviewmethodist.org
Youth Directors	Claire Chambers	761-7528 cilongpre@yahoo.com
	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

**We slipped a bit more.**

**Surely November and December will be better.**

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

## Random Musings

Advent—season of preparation and anticipation—waiting for the birth of God’s love incarnate.

I find myself experiencing Advent with fresh energy and enthusiasm this year! There is a way in which Hillview has been in an advent season for many months, anticipating and preparing to birth new life right here on Ustick. Since my arrival, I have felt as if we have, in a very real way, been in labor. There has been much focused, intense work under way—lots of things happening at once—tremendous goodwill, grace and trust flowing amongst us. This, I believe, is God’s Spirit inviting and encouraging us to “keep breathing and push!”

In the next several weeks, there will be some shifting within our church staff with Jeff Thompson taking over worship technology and general communication needs on a half-time basis as his ministry with “Catch the Flame” ends. I know I speak for us all in thanking Jeff for his creative work with the 11:11 service. We are looking forward to his energy infusing the 10:00am service and church life in new ways! This new blended service begins November 29<sup>th</sup>. Exciting! “Keep breathing and push!”

Gene Lubiens will begin soon to shift half of his full-time hours to directing our education programming. He brings a rich background to this work and we welcome him to this new role. As we welcome him, we thank Judy Halverson for her uncountable hours of leadership—time given because of her passion for this ministry. Judy will continue to teach our kids and even wants to direct VBS! Blessings abound... As followers of Jesus there is much for all of us to learn—so many ways God can be transforming us! “Keep breathing and push on.”

Jennifer Vallejo joins us in a small but critical role as director of our Community Meal, organizing and managing a host of details including everything from volunteers to publicity. She has moved here recently from Seattle where she served as an administrative assistant in a United Methodist Church. As we welcome her, we thank Darlene Smith for her vision and long-standing attention to all the details of this monthly event. We also thank Stuart Gustafson and Marilesta Nelson for their deep involvement. Jennifer will direct, Darlene will still cook (bless you) and ALL OF US ARE NEEDED to assist and attend this wonderful outreach into our community! “Keep breathing and push!”

Jesus—what God’s love looks like in human form- something we could not have imagined. As we await the celebration of Jesus’ birth, think about the possibility that God’s love, in some way we can’t imagine, may also be born through us! “Keep breathing and push!” Pastor Barbara

### Alternative Christmas Gifts



“Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat. Please put a penny in the old man’s hat . . .” Or, better yet, give an **Alternative Christmas Gift**. Gifts that serve others honor the birth of Jesus and show our concern for the

whole family of God.

This year you have the opportunity to contribute to Interfaith Sanctuary Housing Services, Corpus Christi Day Shelter or to the Becas con Bendiciones Scholarship Fund.

**Corpus Christi House** - An ongoing mission project, Corpus Christi House is a hospitality day center offering the basic needs of life to all who come through its doors: professional services and/or referrals, phone, postal service or email; showers and laundry facilities, a change of clothes, a respite from the cold, and a welcoming atmosphere.

**Interfaith Sanctuary** – A project of many faith groups, Interfaith Sanctuary provides a non-judgmental shelter for the homeless in Boise. It is usually filled to capacity and has both financial needs and an ongoing need for volunteers.

**Becas con Bendiciones Honduran Scholarship Fund** - Public schools in Honduras are “free”, but many children are unable to attend because of entry fees plus uniforms and school supplies they are required to buy. This program provides support for children who are selected for the school year, and is designed to help the poorest of the poor get an education.

**World Hunger/Poverty UMCOR Advance 982920** – The United Methodist Committee on Relief delivers hope and enhances human dignity through food, shelter, health and peace projects. This particular Advance provides food to families in developing nations.

Giving an **Alternative Christmas Gift** is easy to do, saves on gas and allows you to avoid the crowds. Gift cards can be found on the Christmas tree in the gathering area. Select a card for the project/s you want to support, put your check or cash in the yellow envelope and place it in the gift box under the tree, and take the card and white envelope to give to the recipient of the gift.

# HILLVIEW U.M.W. CALENDAR CORNER

## FUTURE FUNCTIONS...

### December 5<sup>th</sup> UMW Gathering and Brunch

#### MONTHLY CIRCLE MEETINGS

##### Morning Book Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month/ 10:00 A.M.

Borders Books at the Mall

Contact person:

George Ann Morris – 853-2729

##### Evening Book Group

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month / 6:30 P.M.

Church Kitchen/ Meal provided

Contact person: Darlene Smith 376-5977

##### Fellowship Circle

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 7 p.m.

Contact person: Betsy Baughman

##### Lydia Circle (Study Group)

First and Third Tuesdays/ 9:30-11:30 A.M.

Church Parlor

Contact Person: Judy Halverson 327-0541

### Coming Events

**Ladies mark your calendars for these important events:**

**It's not too early to plan on attending the Christmas Gathering and Brunch, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. There will be story telling and caroling. The Angel Tree will be available again this year. Good food and fellowship. Plan now to join us!**

**All women of the church are invited. Children welcome..**



**Want to spread joy and meet some very interesting ladies? Circle the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and have lunch with our Lady Vets. 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! **The next luncheon is December 8<sup>th</sup>.****

# Youth News!

Special thanks to those who have donated snacks...Judy Halverson and Jackie Cooney. They have been appreciated (and devoured).

Coming up...

## November:

**29<sup>th</sup> 5:00-6:30 Pre-Christmas party** in the youth house. Watch Elf, enjoy treats (Spaghetti with syrup any one?), and decorate the youth house for Christmas.



**This just in...**Hillview Youth are gearing up for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual footlocker drive! That's right...9 years of supporting our veterans.

Also coming up, Parents' Day out! We know parents do their best Christmas shopping without the little ones in tow and we want to help out. On December 12<sup>th</sup> from 9-noon we'll give them that chance. And how much is this invaluable service?

Absolutely FREE! However, you must RSVP for your space.

Email Claire at [cilongpre@yahoo.com](mailto:cilongpre@yahoo.com)



## **December (take a deep breath):**

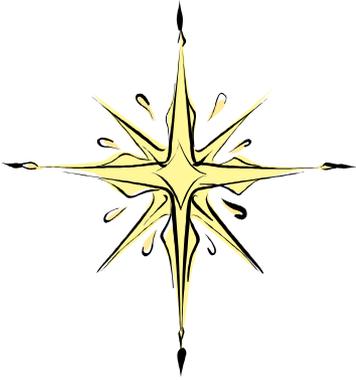
**5<sup>th</sup> 5-6:30 Irregular Youth Group**

**12<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00 Parents Day out** (please let Claire or Jeff know if you plan to help!).

**13<sup>th</sup> ...Sort items from the Veterans footlocker** (and cookies of course)

**18<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 Deliver Veterans Footlocker Booty** (there will be cookies...)

**29<sup>th</sup> Laser tag** (time and day to be confirmed).



**You Are Invited To The  
Longest Night Service  
Sunday, December 20, 2009  
6:00 P.M.**

While Christmas is a joy-filled time for many persons, for some people it is a time of sorrow and sadness. The Longest Night service offers a time to remember that this may be a first Christmas without a loved one, or you may have memories of Christmas that are painful. You may have health or life concerns that are burdensome. This service gives voice to the variety of emotions present during this Holy Season. We gather to reflect, to proclaim our faith , to discover light in the darkness.

## Church Bazaar and Fall Festival Report

Our First Annual Church Bazaar was a success ! We raised over \$1,000 (1,030.77 and counting). The silent Auction raised \$1,102.00 and the Live Auction raised \$185.00 (that was with just one item). The Reverse Auction raised \$20 for VIM and \$82 for the Homebound Ministries. We made money on the dinner and the desserts brought in \$62. this means that so far we have raised \$1,358.33 for VIM and \$1,420.33 for the Homebound Ministries.

I would like to thank everyone who helped. We had Lydia Circle and the Youth Group's Christmas ornaments and the Youth also did some baking as well as many individuals who donated handcrafted items. We also had quite a few Silent Auction items and eager bidders. A special THANK YOU to Charlie Pegan as our auctioneer for the Live Auction. Thank you to everyone who helped move tables (Oldfields, Jeff Thompson, Stan Barth to name a few), Thanks to all who helped move auction items (Amanda Ballance, Janine Watkins, again to name just two), the clean-up crew (Pastor Barbara, Judy Halverson, Janine Watkins, to name just a few), the Kitchen Crew –headed by Bud & Linda Sherrets, and a very special THANK YOU to Curtis and Karen Kron who were cashiers for the entire weekend. Thank you to the Church Bazaar “staff” Judy and Ron Halverson, Ruth Gillette (they stayed Friday night so the sale items were available to the Ukrainians and to the Girl Scouts), Linda Porter, Pastor Barbara, our Saturday staff also went the extra mile and helped our Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts get the Scouting for Food bags and flyers ready to be handed out.

The leftovers from the meal were taken to Corpus Christi House and to Community Ministries (Thanks to Stuart Gustafson)

Again thank you to everyone named here and to those many volunteers and crafters not listed, this would not have been successful without you!

Claudia Flora  
Church Bazaar and Fall Festival  
Chairperson



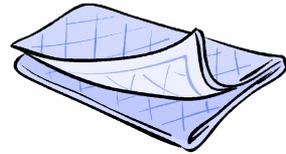
## First Fruits Winter Project “Give From Abundance”

Please bring coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, winter shoes, vests, mittens, sweatshirts, caps, sleeping bags & blankets! Any winter wear including new socks and underwear.



All gifts to go to Corpus Christi for those living on our streets and in shelters.

**START NOW!** In the spirit of first fruits, give from your abundance rather than purchasing. Some how we all have enough.



Live simply, so others can simply live.



## Donations Needed for Annual Foot Locker Drive

Hillview Ministry to Help Veterans - November 15 – December 13, 2009

The Hillview UMC youth group and church members will again ask for donations to help our heroes and heroines at the Idaho State Veterans Home. This famed ministry is in its ninth year at HUMC, and it continues to fill a vital need in our community. Want to help? Just see the Army foot locker in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 15 for a list of items needed by our veterans. In past years clothing items like large sweat suits, toiletries such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, and comfort items including Sudoku books have been joyfully received by Home residents. Wal-Mart and similar gift cards are also very welcome, as the Veterans Home staff can purchase the items in highest demand from residents. Donations can be made on Sundays through Sunday morning, December 13. Please contact Claire Chambers (761-7528) or Ken Jenkins (321-1734) for more information. Thanks for again serving those who served!

## ***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 Roger Enlow—** The family of Lucille Hansen,*

*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.

**The Sermon Talk-Back has a new name!**

## **PASTOR'S FORUM**

Most Sundays, the sermon & worship experience will fuel the conversation but there will be those times when God pops up in the news and this warrants our attention-- or topics of relevance to our church around matters of peace and justice come into focus. The forum will be one place where we can live into our church tenets, making sure that what we talk about finds some application in how we live. Newcomers, one-timers are always welcome.

By the way, the tenets of the church on our website.

To view them , just click on the bar that reads:  
*Hillview UMC Tenets* near the top of the home page.



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!

### **Thanksgiving Food Box Update**

Hillview's volunteers-Dorothy, Myrtle, Jeannie, Will, Judy, Jennifer, Hayden and Brooke—assisted the Mt. View Community Fellowship Church prepare 106 Thanksgiving Food Boxes that Community Ministries Center distributed for Thanksgiving. The \$315 that Hillview members donated helped purchase the food items that were missing as the supplies ran out. Also, Community Ministries Center had to fill even more boxes to meet the requests for food boxes! Thank you to all who donated food, time or money for the Thanksgiving food boxes.

### **Lunch Bunch**

We will meet on December 10th at Marie Calendars 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.



## Community Meal

A special THANK YOU to Darlene Smith for all of the hard work getting the Community Meal program up and running and to Stuart Gustafson for his support on this important ministry.

Mark you calendars for December 30<sup>th</sup> for the next Community Meal. We will also have a drawing for a door prize. If you would like to help with this event in December and haven't previously signed up, there is a sign up sheet on the Church Life bulleting board in the gathering area or you may call Marilesta Nelson-375-5116.

### **MINI-MUSIC CLASS IS BACK!**

Esther Wesche will be teaching the mini-music class on Sunday mornings, 10 am to 10:15 am \* in room 6, where children's church is held. Then at 10:15 am, the children can go to room 10 for Sunday School class. ALL children are invited to participate with this music class.



**Night of Music**  
**December 6, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**



**Come enjoy this beautiful night of song and music as we continue in this season of Advent. We will feature our choirs and music groups as well as individuals. If you would like to perform with us please contact our Director of Music Gene Lubiens at 989-5981 or [glubiens@hotmail.com](mailto:glubiens@hotmail.com)**