



THE CONNECTOR
"Welcoming All...
Making Disciples...
Taking Christ to the World"
December 22, 2010
Vol. 2 Number 23



WORSHIP
Early Service 8:30AM
Sanctuary Service 10:00 AM
Sunday School
Classes for all ages at 11:15



Christmas Eve

December 24
Christmas Eve Services
5:30, 7 & 10 PM
All services will have the traditional
candle lighting—the 5:30 service is
very Child friendly

Community Meal
December 29

New Newsletter
We will have a new format starting in the new year!

Hillview Mens' Retreat Feb 4-6 at Swenson's cabin in Donnelly. Call Will at 323-0141 or email at dogtown@rmci.net if you're interested.

Save the date 5/22/2011
Happy Birthday Hillview

MAY 2011						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Our Anniversary Committee asks you to please Save the Date! May 22, 2011 will be a very important day in the life of Hillview you won't want to miss!

Random Musings
from Pastor Barbara

When people ask me about the church I serve, I tell them Hillview is a church full of remarkable people, many of whom put their faith in action every day—many of whom give generously from their lives and talents for the benefit of others-- many of whom work for justice in serious and significant ways. I tell them we want our faith to matter and we work at it. I tell them we have agreed upon a set of tenets for the church and we want to live into them more fully.

I believe what I say here is true. Granted, not EVERY person at Hillview is equally committed to deepening their faith with such intentionality. That is not the point. The point is that we share in this collective commitment to being ever-more-faithful followers of Christ.

I can, however, pretty easily name our growing edge. Two of our tenets speak specifically of faithful study with the intention of deepening our knowledge AND our capacity to speak of our faith to others. This is where we can do better. With worship attendance running around 175 each week, only 50-60 persons (all ages) are involved in one of several classes available on Sunday mornings. There are 3 Bible study classes offered at very different times every week (including Sunday morning). Attendance at these studies runs around 35 persons total (with many of these folks being in one of the Sunday morning classes as well). There are monthly and weekly book/video study groups, open to all; these engage and challenge about 20 people, most of whom attend other classes above.

My question, and I do say this as a gentle but real challenge, is-- where are YOU? Are you among the folks who are committing to another level of faith development—what we call discipleship? Can you/ do you speak of your faith using your own words, rather than what you were told when you were younger? Are you clear about what the Bible says and how it says it? Can you find your way around it? Are you making important connections between how you act in the world and what you believe?

I believe these things matter. In the coming days and weeks, as the new year unfolds, watch for more opportunities to get the basics or dig deeper. Please consider stretching your learning in some new way. It is a critical part of FAITH THAT MATTERS.

Hillview's United Methodist Women welcomes all women to join us in all of our activities. UMW is a great way to meet other women active in our church and community.

January Calendar

1/11 Lady Veterans' Luncheon 11:30 a.m. see bulletin board for sign up



1/15 Unit Meeting 10:00 a.m.

1/30 UMW Sunday

Upcoming dates

2/6 Valentine boxes

2/19 One day retreat



MONTHLY CIRCLE MEETINGS

Morning Book Group 2nd Monday of the month/ 10:00 am

Borders Books at the Mall

January's book The Art of Racing in the Rain

February's book The Piano Teacher

Contact person: George Ann Morris – 853-2729

Evening Book Club

2nd Monday of the month 6:30 pm

Church Kitchen/ Meal provided

January's book The People of the Book

February's book The Golden Notebook

Contact Person :

Darlene Smith 376-5977

Lydia Circle (Study Group)

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 9:30am

Church Parlor

Contact Person:

Judy Halverson 327-0541

Fellowship Circle

Contact person: Betsy Baughman

424-7713

Greetings from Janine Watkins

May this holy season and the new year be wonder-full for you. Although I will not yet be in direct contact with you, we are connected in spirit. Individually and as a vital community of faith, service, and justice, you are much in my heart and prayer.

These first six months of my retirement have been a time of much silence and solitude for letting go~emptying, as in the initial half of the prayer labyrinth. Not only did I stop ministry, but also involvement in our church community for the time-being, resigned or completed several outside volunteer involvements, and relinquished my chaplain certification. While the actions I have taken seem rather drastic, they feel very right for this time in my life. My strong introversion needs time and space.

Recently, I was inspired to claim the next year which began the first Sunday of Advent, as "Sabbatical: A Year for My Heart." This time will be as the center of the labyrinth where I will encounter God and myself in new ways, in a listening and discernment mode. Ultimately I will return to the world as in the last half of the labyrinth, with renewed energy, new direction, and hopefully additional wisdom. Where this process will lead, I have no idea, but I trust in God's presence in it. Unlike a maze, the labyrinth has no dead ends. I anticipate that my exploration, experimentation and expression will be open as well. Time will tell...

In the meantime...blessings of the peace, love, and grace of Christ in your hearts and homes.

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 for—***Bob & Darlene Richardson, Bonnie Jacobs**

*Pray in sympathy with—***Linda & Bud Sherrets on the death of their son David—Georgia & Randy Karnes on the death of both of their fathers— Kim Custer on the death of her mother— Benita & Wes Remaley on the death of Wes' father— Shirley Audens and family on the death of her mother, Jean Geertson.**

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

*Pray for our seminary student—*Janessa Chastain

For those of you who would like to send Janessa cards of encouragement/love—thinking-of-you ...here is her address and if you would like to read her blog it is at <http://janessac.blogspot.com/>

Janessa Chastain
DREW - CM 1762
P.O. Box 802
Madison, NJ 07940-0802

We need your help—we would like to keep this listing of military personnel as up to date as possible so family members we are asking you to call (375-0392) or email (churchoffice@hillviewmethodist.org) the church office with information on your soldiers name, branch of service and where they are serving.



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 —Kevin Custer, USMC, Dustin Soper, Cara Hammond—Air Force, Spec. Christopher Fabela—Army — Sgt. Willie Fabela— U.S.M.C. Staff Sgt Bryan Koepf, Army, Ft. Bliss-TX, family members: wife-Jen, sons John & Zack. His unit will be going to Afghanistan Fall 2011.



Lunch Bunch

We will meet on January 13 at Cottonwood Grill at 11:30AM. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the gathering area or call the church office 375-0392

Social Justice & the Government

You are invited to join the Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (IIRAH) to share and learn how the economic prosperity of the entire community can be achieved through establishing strong systems and support structures to end hunger, and what you can do as a citizen to ensure the common good of all people.

Roundtable will meet **Thursday January 6th at 7:00pm** at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6200 N. Garrett, Garden City. Our topic will be "**Social Justice and the Government**". This will include discussions on the Role of Government, Idaho's Budget (research by Center on Budget and Policy Priorities), how would you spend Idaho's budget, and our Moral values as we look at our state's budget. There will be a short update on issues IIRAH will be watching in the legislative session. Don't miss this important IIRAH Gathering. All are always welcome. Questions contact idroundtable@yahoo.com.



COMMUNITY MEAL

The December Community Meal will be
Wednesday **December 29.** We will need

volunteers to bring side dishes and as always desserts are welcome too. ALSO needed will be folks to help with set up, monitoring food and drinks, clean up and take down. If you can help with any of these important duties, please sign up on the bulletin board as well. A SPECIAL big "THANK YOU" to all of you who provided food and assistance at the November meal. We couldn't have done it without you. . If you have any questions, please contact Marilesta @ 375-5116.