



**THE CONNECTOR**  
"Welcoming All...  
Making Disciples...  
Taking Christ to the World"  
December 23, 2009  
Vol. 1 Number 12



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

**Brief All Church Conference**

There will be a very brief all-church conference immediately following worship on January 3 to vote on the nomination of Stuart Gustafson as an additional member of the finance committee. Stuart has agreed to fill the chairmanship of this committee and serve a one-year term as chair—a position that is currently vacant.

**CHURCH OFFICERS, LEADERS  
& MINISTRY TEAM MEMBERS!**

Please save this date:

Saturday, January 9, 2010

9am-1pm (at church)(lunch provided)

for a Leadership retreat led by Pastor Barbara. She promises a practical and inspirational use of your time...

**Save the Date—February 5th**  
**Special Guest—Special Music—Special Time**  
**Details in future newsletters!**

**Table of Contents**

Page 2 Staff List  
Page 3 Random Musings  
Page 4 UMW Corner  
Page 5 Our Prayers, Living the ?,  
Sunday School info  
Pages 6 Lunch Bunch

Page 7 Community Meal info  
Special insert—List of Church Ministry  
Teams

## 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 Technology and Communications	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
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...

2010 is almost here! What I appreciate most in the early days of each new year is Epiphany—that celebration in the church that marks the visit of the wisemen to the Holy family-- that first epiphany or realization that Jesus Christ has come for ALL people—a very unexpected idea with so many implications! The story of the wisemen provides a kind of “aha!” moment for us about God’s love. We see it with fresh eyes, we understand it in a new way; the light bulbs go on over our heads. Everything & everyone looks different. That’s what epiphanies can do—give us a new outlook, a new insight, a new attitude.

I am not a big fan of New Year’s Resolutions. The idea is basically a good one-- how do you want your life to be different? Resolve to make those changes! These “resolves” can be anything from that weight you want to lose to that trip you’ve always wanted to take. They can be about giving up bad habits &/ or establishing some new ones. They can be about attitudes or practices. But, if you are like me, my resolutions have always been a little contrived & definitely short-lived, leaving me somewhat disappointed in myself. Ultimately, I have resolved not to resolve anymore.

Obviously, my hope for Hillview in this new year does *not* involve resolutions. My hope is that we open our hearts and minds to the epiphanies that God is offering. And in those “ahas!” we see new possibilities for ministry, we gain insights that shape and grow our faith, and we are become more committed followers of Jesus Christ. The light bulbs go on over our heads and we simply see what we are called to do and move forward, trusting God.

So as 2010 comes into view, there will be no list of resolutions from me. Instead, I will be devoting some of my time and energy to the search for light switches...

## HILLVIEW U.M.W. CALENDAR CORNER

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful time at our Christmas Brunch. Singing carols, listening to festive music provided by Debbie Knutsen, and enjoying excerpts from The *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* read by Janet Worthington. Thank you to all who helped with this terrific annual event.

### January Functions...

**January 12<sup>th</sup>** Lady's Veterans Luncheon 11:30

Want to spread joy and meet some very interesting ladies? Circle the 2nd 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!

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** Saturday Unit Meeting 10:00 a.m. Please join us for our Unit Meeting in the Church Parlor. We will be focusing on Sudan.

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

### 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

Darlene Smith 376-5977

#### Fellowship Circle

2nd Thursday of the month 7 p.m.

Contact person: Betsy Baughman

#### Lydia Circle (Study Group)

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 9:30-11

Church Parlor

Judy Halverson 327-0541

### Coming Events

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

**February 7th Valentines Boxes 12:00**

**February 9<sup>th</sup> Ladies Veteran Luncheon 11:30**

**February 18<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting 7:00**

**February 20-21<sup>st</sup> Legislative Advocacy Group**

**February 20<sup>th</sup> Retreat**

## **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.



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](http://Janine.watkins@hillviewmethodist.org), 336-1991).

The 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.

There are six sessions in this series—you are invited to join in the discussions.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**



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 January 14 at the Cottonwood Grille (corner of River and 9th Street) 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.

### **About your church leaders and ministry teams...**

In future issues of The Connector, you will regularly find information from our newly configured and elected church ministry teams. The hope is that you will gain a better understanding -- not just of what the various teams do, but of how their work impacts our church and how you might connect more deeply within the life of this congregation.

Included in this newsletter is a list of church officers and ministry teams for 2010. ALL persons listed there are encouraged to be at the Leadership Retreat (Saturday, January 9, 9-1:00pm) where some serious planning and work will be accomplished together and in teams. For most committees, this will be your only January meeting. It's an important one—please be there.

## Community Meal

Mark your 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.

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

### **Youth News!**

**December (take a deep breath):**  
29<sup>th</sup> Laser tag (time and day to be confirmed).

### **NOVEMBER INCOME**

	<u>FOR</u>	
Checks/Envelopes/Stock	\$43,117	
Loose Plate	\$605	
Facilities Donations	\$520	
Supervalue	\$33	
<b>General Fund Receipts</b>		<b>\$44,275</b>
Building Fund	\$316	
Sunday School	\$231	
Community Ministries	\$459	
Corpus Christi	\$115	
Community Meals	\$30	
Audio/Multimedia Fund	\$30	
Camp Scholarships	\$50	
Fall Festival	\$2,777	
UMCOR	\$20	
Memorials and/or Endowments	\$100	
Janessa Chastain Ministry Fund	\$100	
Kjell Knutsen Emerging Ministries	\$50	
<b>Other Receipts</b>		<b>\$4,278</b>
		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$48,553</b>