

**HILLSIDE**

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**August 2016**

**HILLSIDE**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**OUR MISSION**

*Hillside is called to Love God, Serve others, Grow in Christ & Go live out our faith.*

**OUR VISION**

*Hillside is a center of hope in our community as we reflect the love of Jesus.*

**Sundays @ Hillside**

Traditional Worship @ 8:30 a.m. - Casual Worship @ 10:45 a.m.  
Conversation & Sunday School @ 9:45 a.m.

**Weekly Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Rev. Chris Neikirk - [cneikirk@hillsideprinceton.org](mailto:cneikirk@hillsideprinceton.org)

## UPCOMING SERMONS

August 7 "Called to the Classroom"  
August 14 "Gonna Need a Bigger Boat"  
August 21 "I'll Have a Double Shot"  
August 28 "Live in Concert, Not in Competition"

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### CALLED TO SERVE, CALLED TO LEAD

I shared with you last month that our mission and vision begin with prayer and humility. I continue to pray that our congregation will understand that God is still calling men and women with humble motives and pure hearts to lead his people. Have you been praying? Have you begun to ask yourself, "What is my leadership role as we seek to live into our vision of becoming a center of hope in our community that reflects the love of Jesus?" Have you begun to ask yourself, "What is my part of Hillside's mission to LOVE God, SERVE others, GROW in Christ, and GO live out our faith?" We all bear an individual responsibility, but many of us are called to lead others to discover their part of the mission as well. Is God calling you to lead? Will you answer?

What does answering that call look like? I can't define that entirely for you, but I can help shape how that plays out. For some of you, this involves stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new... maybe even failing at trying something new. For others, you are already firmly planted where you are intended to live out your calling... you just need to start sharing and expressing your faith.

Discovering your calling can take years and often involves taking one step, followed by another, followed by another, etc. Here are some ways you can begin to "dip your toe into the water" without "jumping into the deep end":

- Volunteer in the nursery because you are a calming presence for new parents nervously dropping their infant off for the first time. See Jenny White.
- Volunteer, along with your family, as a greeter because you have a

### BE THAT CHURCH

Throughout the country in the month of July, representatives of Annual Conferences were electing bishops who will help guide and lead the United Methodist Church in the coming years and decades. A bishop is tasked with ordering a specific conference for ministry, strengthening local churches, commissioning, ordaining and appointing pastors to serve in those local churches, and being the chief spiritual officer of the conference. Indiana's own Rev. Dr. Frank Beard, Senior Pastor at Castleton United Methodist Church, was elected Bishop and will serve one of the conferences in the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ). At the time of this article, we do not yet know where he will serve nor do we know who the new bishop will be in the state of Indiana.

I share this with you with you not because I think you are dying to know the "business" of the UMC, but to remind you of the power of the local church in loving people and growing leaders. I do not know Bishop Beard well, but part of his story moved me to tears as I listened to his acceptance speech. In that speech he told of being a little boy playing basketball outside of a United Methodist Church when a layman by the name of George Bennett approached him and his brother. He brought them into the church for cookies and punch, then the church paid for them to go to church camp. He expressed gratitude for that church loving on him at a time when a white church loving on a little black boy was not popular. He was called from that church to preach the Gospel.

I wept as I listened to a story filled with love, hope, and promise. While my story is very different from Bishop Beard's, I thought how my own story involves many individuals who loved on me in the name of Jesus, nurtured me into the family of God, and taught me about God's love offered to me without price through Jesus Christ. Tears rolled down my face as I celebrated in my heart with him. But, all I could think was, "I want to be more like George Bennett!" The Kingdom of God must have many "George Bennetts" and many churches who are willing to take risks to love others in the name of Jesus. We, at Hillside must take the relational risks necessary to seek out those in need of God's love and we must nurture them into the faith. ***Be that church, Hillside! Be that church...***

If you would like to watch Bishop Beard's full acceptance speech, visit this link: <http://www.ncjumc.org/frank-beard-elected/>. If you want more information on the NCJ and its member conferences and structure, visit [ncjumc.org](http://ncjumc.org). If you want more information on the Indiana Conference, visit [inumc.org](http://inumc.org). If you want more information on the election of Bishops or the United Methodist Church, visit [umc.org](http://umc.org).

***Be that church, Hillside! Be that church...***

Blessings, Pastor Chris

## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016 INFO | Nancy Whyms**

As Hillside's lay member representative to the 2016 Annual Conference it was my privilege to attend my first Annual Conference June 9-11 which was held at the Convention Center in Indianapolis. I didn't know what to expect but it turns out that the Annual Conference is part worship and business meeting, part education and connection building along with a large portion of inspiration and celebration. My husband, Dick Blackburn, also attended as an equalization member.

The theme for the conference was **Be Hope**. As Bishop Mike Coyner told us in the opening worship service, hope is more than wishful thinking, and there were several presentations from churches around the state sharing stories called "Hope Talks" (think TEDTalks) about how their congregations are spreading the hope of Christ. There was a presentation about Africa University, a United Methodist -related institution located in Mutare, Zimbabwe regarding educating young people who will become future leaders throughout Africa. We were given information about resources and partners available on the conference level for discipleship and leadership development of local churches.

We conducted conference business by reviewing and approving reports from a variety of ministry areas and committees and approved the conference budget for 2017 in the amount of \$13,864,261. We approved the nomination of Rev. Dr. Frank Beard as Indiana's nominee to become bishop. We received a report from members of the 2016 Indiana Delegation on the work of the General Conference which was held in May in Portland, OR.

There was a Service of Remembrance and Holy Communion for the clergy and spouses who had passed away and we celebrated retiring clergy, especially the upcoming retirement of Bishop Mike Coyner. Bishop Mike was "roasted" as many friends and colleagues told stories. An important legacy of Bishop Mike is the Building Discipleship Centers initiative to provide special places where people can retreat and focus on hearing God. This involves building a new learning and worship space at Epworth Forest Conference Center, a new lodge at Epworth, and restoring the lake at Camp Indicoso. We presented a donation on behalf of Hillside at Bishop Mike's celebration towards Camp Indicoso.

There were vendors and displays so I picked up pamphlets and bought books. Lunch and learns and dinner meetings provided interesting ideas for youth programs. The Annual Conference was a busy few days that reminded me that here in Indiana we are a collective ministry of 1,120 churches all pursuing the shared mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

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- great smile, a kind handshake, and can open a door. See Andrea Dyehouse or Karla Scott.
- Volunteer on Wednesday nights to help set-up tables and chairs or help prepare, serve and clean-up a meal to over 125 people as we build community. See Jeannie Robbins.
  - Volunteer to read scripture at the first service, second service, or both. See Brenda Witt.
  - Volunteer to help teach children's Sunday School or help out with our kids' programs on Wednesday evenings. See Amanda Miskell.
  - Volunteer to be a positive adult presence on Sunday evenings with our youth by serving a meal, playing games, or assisting with small groups. See Justin Dyehouse.
  - Volunteer to do "work" around the church: tree-trimming, landscaping, cleaning windows, mowing, set-up chairs for worship, etc. See Brenda Witt who will connect you with trustees.
  - Volunteer to teach a short-term Bible study or topical study on a book or subject that is of interest to you. See Susan Carey.
  - Volunteer to coach a kids' sports team, read in a kindergarten or preschool classroom, serve as an assistant in an elementary classroom, etc. See the head of the organization.
  - Begin to listen to your co-workers' doubts, fears, hurts and anger. Pray for them and keep listening. Rather than "one-up" them with your complaints or try to "fix" them with your solutions, simply support them as they struggle in life. At some point they will ask "why?"

All of the above involve you actually taking a risk and asking, "how can I serve" and "who can I serve?" All of the above will require an investment of time, energy and emotion. You must take a first step before God will lead you to take another. Where are you called to serve? Where are you called to lead? I guarantee if your motive is the love of Christ, then your faith will grow in the process. You will be blessed as you are a blessing.

Blessings—Pastor Chris

## **GATHERING INGREDIENTS FOR APPLE PIES**

September is just around the corner and that means it's time to make those delicious Apple Pies for Golden Heritage Days in Princeton.

We would like to start collecting the following ingredients. We will need them by the September 4. Please place them in the blue tub in the lobby.

- 113 - 4lb bags of sugar (not fine)
  - 67 - Crisco 3lb cans
- 115 - 5lb bags of Gold Medal (not self-rising)
  - 5 lbs salt

We will be asking for the rest of the ingredients in September's newsletter. Items we still need will be lard, jumbo eggs, and Parkay margarine.

If you would like to donate money, please mark your check for apple pies and put in the offering plate, or bring to the office.

We will start apple peeling Wednesday, September 14. We are only working 1 week this year. The schedule will be put out in the middle of August. We will keep posted the number of supplies we still need. Thanks for all your support.

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I would like to take the time to thank everybody that was on the Betty Smith Scholarship Committee. Thank you for the scholarship as well as the continued support through church and everything I do. I'm excited about what my future holds. I'm counting down the days until I move into IUPUI. I plan on majoring in medical social work with a minor in psychology.

Thanks Again! Ashleigh Chestnut

## **MISSION GUATEMALA**

### **MYSTERY THEATER DINNER**

August 13 at 6 p.m. come to Hillside and help solve a murder! "Passion, Pistols, and Pasta," a Mystery Dinner Theater, will be presented by the Hillside Mission Guatemala Team. This fundraising event will include an Italian dinner and a mystery for you to solve. The grande finale will be a dessert auction. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be obtained from any Mission Guatemala team member or contact the church office. All reservations must be made in advance and paid by August 8. There will be no tickets available at the door of the event. Baby sitting will not be provided so that our staff may enjoy an evening out. The proceeds of this event will go to Mission Guatemala expenses.

### **CHURCH YARD SALE**

We will be having a BIG yard sale at Hillside United Methodist Church on September 9 & 10 and WE NEED YOUR TREASURES! We are asking for donations of items such as clothing, shoes, household items, knick knacks, kitchen ware, etc. All proceeds from the sale will go toward expenses for the Mission Trip in November. You can bring your items in the week of September 5-9, 2016. If you need help getting your items to the church or have any questions, please contact Kali Lance @ 812-664-7582 or Beth Robbins @ 812-304-0078.

### **2016 HILLSIDE HARVEST HUSTLE 5K**

October 15, 2016 @ 9am will be here before we know it! The 1st online registration is in the books for this year's race! We are looking forward to another great race this year. This year's proceeds are going towards the expenses for the 2016 Guatemala Mission trip in November. I will be looking for some volunteers to help at a water table at 1.5 miles and a couple of people with a golf cart or 4wheeler who would like to lead and follow to ensure a safe running course. Please see or call Kali Lance at 812-664-7582 if you would like to help, sign up for the race, or have any question. Online registration can be done easily at [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) and search for the Hillside Harvest Hustle 5K.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX MINISTRY**

I hope you have all noticed the set up in the lobby for Operation Christmas Child. I know we received a lot of donations for July's Art/Craft Items. If you didn't get a chance to donate any health items and you want to, just lay them on the table and we will place those items in the appropriate totes.

The month of August will be Toys for Children ages 2 to 6. Here is a list of items that will help fill our younger children toy tote: Small stuffed animals, Jump Ropes, Girls Dress Up Jewelry, Girls Dress Up, Hair Items, Small Puzzles, Small Dolls, Small Cars, Small Trucks, Small Balls, Yo-Yos, Small Etch a Sketch, Tennis Balls.

We will be collecting these items all month long. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Amy Evans 812-664-1683 or Janelle Zeisler 812-483-0341.

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## **A NOTE FROM THE CHOIR**

Thanks to everyone who sang and played special music in July! We enjoyed Dolli Neikirk and Judi Tate, Toni Kohlmeyer, Lori Frederick, and Rhonda Bozikis, Penny Mason, Rhonda Bozikis, Susan Woods, and Sandy Nixon, Austin Glover, and Crystal Lance and Ali Medler. With the exception of Austin Glover, all these people are part of the Hillside family, and two of them are part of the Youth choir. Aren't we blessed to have talented people willing to share with us!

In August we will have a quartet, two duets, an instrumental ensemble, and some of our youth at the piano. Again, we are blessed!

The choir will be returning to 8:30 service on September 11. We will begin rehearsals at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31 in the worship center. We are looking forward to the return of all members and are hoping that others of you would like to be a part of the choir. Remember, you don't have to read music—we will teach you. A love of music and a desire to serve God through music are the only requirements!

## **LET'S KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

One of Jesus' most radical acts was welcoming children in teaching and worship. One of the ways in which we reflect Christ's love is by ensuring a safe place for children to learn and worship. As we move into the new school year and welcome more and more children through our doors, let's be mindful of the procedures we have in place to protect our kids:

- All adult volunteers who work with children and/or youth must have a **current criminal background check** on file in the office. Please see Brenda if you need to complete this process.
- Parents must **sign-in** and **sign-out** their children from nursery care, Sunday School and Wednesday night activities. Older siblings are not allowed to pick children up; parents or guardians only please.
- Our Safe Sanctuaries policy requires that **two** adults be present at all times when caring for children. An adult volunteer should never be alone with a child or youth.
- Parents are **responsible** for their children until the child is signed in to the care of a Sunday or Wednesday program. We love that our kids feel at home at Hillside; however, certain areas of the church are not safe for exploration.
- During the last song at Sunday Service, parents must pick up their children from **Children's Church** at the back of the worship center. This way we can be sure that each child is with his/her parent or guardian.

Thank you for understanding that these measures are necessary for protecting children and also for creating the best worship and learning environment for all of our attendees. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Susan Carey, Director of Family Ministries (s.carey@hillsideprinceton.org).

## **DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES**

**Did you know...**that last year an average of 70 children from pre-school through 5th grade attended our Wednesday night activities?

**Did you know...**that last year an average of 25 6th through 12th graders participated in our Sunday night activities?

**Did you know...**that on any given Sunday, 30 - 35 children attend Children's Church?

**Did you know...**that our second service nursery nurtures as many as 7 infants and toddlers on any given Sunday, with the potential for more who currently stay in the sanctuary with their parents?

**Did you know...**that youth will participate in two mission trips this year?

**Did you know...**that 92 kids attended our vacation bible school in June to learn about individuals who were unaccepted by their communities, but accepted by Christ?

**Did you know...**that children and youth are important to God, and He places the responsibility of their discipleship on **our** shoulders?

**Did you know...**that you don't have to be an expert in child development to love on and disciple kids?

**Did you know...**that I have a vision for discipling kids at Hillside UMC from the time they are rocked in the nursery through the time they leave for college, and even beyond that?

**Did you know...**that the nursery is where babies and toddlers learn that God loves them and their world; that Children's Church, Friends Club, and Young Believers are where children learn that they can trust God and should make choices based on His word; that youth group is where teens learn that God wants a relationship with them through Jesus Christ?

**Did you know...**that you can be a part of leading a generation to authentically know their Creator?

**What are you waiting for?**

## **TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH**

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*

*The Daniel Plan:40 Days to a Healthier Life* emphasizes that Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus, and Friends are all necessary to shaping a healthy lifestyle. Several Hillside UMC members have been following the Daniel Plan guidelines and are seeking to develop an accountability group (fulfilling the 'Friends' essential). The group will communicate via private Facebook page, texts, and a once-a-month meet-up.

If you are interested in participating in such a group, please contact Susan Carey (s.carey@hillsideprinceton.org) and watch for more information in the September newsletter.

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## **You're Invited – PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR – Sunday, August 14, noon until 2:00 p.m.**

Do you have questions about your faith that you are having trouble answering? Do you know what you believe and why you believe it?

Do you know what is meant by the word Gospel and why it should be good news to you? Have you been baptized? Should you? Should you have your children baptized? Have you officially joined Hillside Church? Should you? How is Hillside Church organized? Who's in charge? How is it funded? Where does the money go? What does it mean to be a United Methodist Church? Is it different from other churches? Do I even want to be considered a United Methodist? What do other churches believe?

If you have questions like these, whether you are a member or not, you need to attend Pizza with the Pastor from noon until 2 pm on Sunday, August 14! If you have been attending Hillside for more than a few weeks, then you need to attend... and we'll feed you lunch! Please RSVP to the church office by August 11 so that we can order an appropriate number of pizzas and arrange childcare if needed.