

HILLSIDE
— NOW SERVING —

828 West Archer Road
Princeton, IN 47670

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HILLSIDE
— NOW SERVING —

HILLSIDE HAPPENINGS

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016
6:00 p.m.

February 2016


hillsideprinceton.org

SUNDAYS AT HILLSIDE
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. | Worship Services
9:45 - 10:35 a.m. | Sunday School

OFFICE HOURS:
M - TH | 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Friday | 9:00 a.m. - Noon

812-385-2910

 **A UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

- Feb. 3 Meatloaf, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans
- Feb. 10 Baked Spaghetti, Garlic Toast
- Feb. 17 BBQ Pork, Rice Pilaf, Broccoli
- Feb. 24 Baked Potato Bar with meat toppings and side items

Salad, Tea, Fruit Drink, Desserts
\$3.50 each Preschool children and under: FREE
Tickets for 10 meals-\$30

If you would like to help with desserts please be sure to sign-up at the dessert table.

2ND MONDAY MEAL FEBRUARY 8 AT 4:00 P.M.

Menu for 2nd Monday Meal will be chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans and roll. The meal will be available at the church or for pick up as well as delivery. We are in need of desserts and drivers for deliveries. We are serving between 150 and 180 meals per month.

If you would like to help with the meals by providing delivery, kitchen service, desserts or donations, please contact Gail Miller 812-779-6197 or Brenda Witt at the church office.

In Christ's Service,
Gail Miller and Lisa Naas

2015 BUDGET WRAP-UP continued

A quick calculation with basic math results in the following economic calculation: Our 2015 deficit would have been eliminated entirely or can be overcome if each week, every person were willing and able to contribute about an extra \$1.40 -- less than \$75.00 total for the year. I realize for some individuals or families that is not possible. While that is true, for some of us, writing the check for \$5.00 more or increasing our recurring online donation by \$10.00 will not alter our household budget, nor will we experience any economic hardship whatsoever.

Hillside's operating budget for 2016 is \$385,470. We begin the year with a mortgage balance of about \$610,000.00 and anticipate surpassing \$500,000.00 by year end. I am not asking you to begrudgingly give more just so that we can spend more, but rather I am presenting you with an opportunity to participate in expanding the Kingdom of God one person at a time. We will use God's resources wisely as we continue to be faithful to our mission and vision. We are called to LOVE God, SERVE others, GROW in Christ, and GO live out our faith so that we become a center of hope in our community as we reflect the love of Jesus.

Thank you for your continued sacrifice, participation, and generosity.

2015 BUDGET WRAP-UP

All accounts for 2015 have been reconciled and all funds have been distributed in the appropriate categories. Our Profit & Loss Statement shows expenditures for the year were \$369,800.00, or about 82.5% of our approved \$448,200.00 operating budget. Giving for 2015 was \$346,400.00, thus resulting in a deficit of \$23,400.00.

Allow me to place this in perspective for our church. Our average weekly worship attendance grew from 296 in 2014 to 318 in 2015 (271 in 2013). That is awesome! Since 2013, our average weekly attendance is up about 18%. More people are coming and hopefully participating in worship and ministry. However, our budget giving is basically flat within a percentage or two. What this means is that we are reaching and serving more people and spending less money per person. As you are aware, at the same time our operating expenses like utilities, insurance, staff, and maintenance continue to increase.

As I expressed in last month's finance article, Hillside is in very stable financial shape. However, we will not continue to operate at a deficit. In plain English, we cannot continue to serve more people with less dollars. That is neither fiscally responsible, nor economically possible. With that said, we serve and worship a mighty God with infinite resources. Our God is able to not only provide for our basic needs, but also provide for expanded ministry needs as well. God is faithful to His calling and will accomplish His purposes. Sometimes, God does this through miraculous means beyond our comprehension, but most of the time God does this through the faithfulness of average, every day, ordinary people like you and me.

We are invited to join God in ministry. Please pray and ask God what is your part in the ministry of Hillside? Where does God want you to serve? What does God want you to give? And where does God want you to go?

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LITTLE FRIENDS CLUB | Sarah Kruse

We have been having a blast so far this year in Little Friends Club! We've learned that these little people love to dance, are like little sponges absorbing our Bible stories, and love to be our helpers during snack time. We've also learned that they enjoy sharing stories about their week and that they don't like wearing their shoes (but for safety reasons they have to). They bring so much joy to our lives and we are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful ministry. In February, we will continue learning about Moses and other important people from the Bible. There will be a family program on Ash Wednesday beginning at 6:00 and we invite all families to come and participate. Our regular activities will begin following the program that evening.

YOUNG BELIEVERS | Jeremy & Kali Lance

Happy 2016 to all of our Young Believers and their families. We hope you all had a warm welcome back at our Beach Party. We are kicking off the year with a study series about the book of Acts. Over the next 8 weeks we will be digging into our Bibles and learning how the disciples spread the gospel with the help of the Holy Spirit. We are very thankful for a couple of new volunteers, Jennifer Heavrin & Scott Ruesch. If you have any 3rd-5th graders who are interested in learning more about God or have questions about faith, we invite them to come try our class out on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30pm

UPCOMING SERMONS

PROCLAMATION 2016: The Year of the Lord's Favor

Feb. 7 "You Are the Righteousness of God"

Feb. 10 Ash Wednesday "Beauty from Ashes"

LENTEN SERIES: "Beyond the Cross is Resurrection to Life"

Feb. 14 "It's Always Been About New Life"

Feb. 21 "The Messiah, Sent to Bring Life"

Feb. 28 "Breathe of Life"

HILLSIDE MEN | Matt Robbins

Hillside United Methodist Men will meet again for a nutritious breakfast on February 13 @ 7:30 a.m. We will have a short program, lots of laughter and a great time. We invite all of the men of the church to stop by and enjoy a good time! Questions: Matt Robbins at 812-664-0268.

WOMEN'S OUTREACH | Jeannie Robbins

The Women's Outreach welcomes all ladies who are free on Friday mornings for a time of fellowship & devotions. Invite all of your lady friends to join us on February 19 at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Jeannie Robbins at 812-779-6227 or Jane Armes at 812-779-8337.

BACKPACK MINISTRY | Amy Evans

Did you know that Hillside UMC currently provides weekend meals for 54 underprivileged students in the North Gibson School Corporation? Each Friday afternoon, students are sent home with breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, and drinks for the weekend, all provided through our missions dollars.

Did you know that just \$6 per week or \$25 per month would sponsor a student's weekend meals from September through May? It's as easy as designating missions giving to the backpack ministry.

If you'd like more information about the Hillside backpack ministry, contact Amy Evans at 812-664-1683.

CARING FOR KIDS SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM | Jeannie Robbins

There will be an informational and interest indicator meeting on Thursday, February 18 at 6p.m. as we prepare for our 4th year as sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program. Again we hope to have the support of many churches and organizations in the Gibson County Area. This a federal program provided by the Indiana Department of Education. "CARING FOR KIDS" will run May 24-August 4. We will provide a balanced lunch for all children up thru 18 years old. We will continue the 3 locations from last summer with meals served on Tues. and Thurs. between 11:30-12:30 at each location.

We are recruiting volunteers for preparation, delivery and serving. All churches in the area are being asked to join with us. It is a state requirement that all the volunteers attend a training. Also, Hillside requires a current child safety check if you will be directly involved with the children. There is a fee for this.

Please prayerfully consider where you can help with this project. Please contact Jeannie Robbins 812-779-6227 or Susan Carey 812-385-2910 for further information.

This is a government program from the USDA which is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2015 CHRISTMAS OFFERING UPDATE

Hillside friends and family, you went above and beyond with this year's Christmas offering for Heifer International! Christmas giving totaled \$8,333 which exceeded our \$6,000 goal. In addition, the mission team is contributing \$667 to make the total an even \$9,000. Because of your generosity, Hillside UMC is providing a gift ark, 20 biogas stoves, plus an additional \$3,000 for Heifer International to use where most needed.

Thank you, Hillside, for continuing to live out our mission statement to Love, Serve, Grow, and Go.

ARE YOU INTERESED IN MISSION WORK?

Can you sew? Do you have some spare time?

We are planning ahead and will be working on the Christmas Shoe-box Ministry throughout the year. Last year we sent almost 100 cloth drawstring bags in the shoe boxes for children to carry their supplies in. This year we plan to make 150+ bags and pillowcase dresses (only using fabric and not pillowcases). We are also looking at making a couple of other items. We've had fabric donated to the church and we also have the thread & patterns.

It would be fun to have a "sewing day" at church maybe once a month. Or you might prefer doing your sewing at home.

If you are interested in any part of this process please join us for an informational meeting Monday, February 29 in Room 3 at 6:00 p.m. If you have fabric you would like to donate that would be usable for our projects, please let the office know before you bring it to the church. We are using fabric suitable for clothing and some light weight canvases, as well as towels that might be worn in areas that we can cut into pieces for another project we are working on. Contact Brenda in the church office for any questions: 812-385-2910.

NOTE FROM PASTOR CHRIS NEIKIRK

Last month I shared with you that as pastors, we struggle to maintain that deep and intimate relationship with God just as much as "non-pastor" people. Because I am "action-oriented" and "results-driven," I sometimes get so caught up in the "what" and the "how" that I neglect the "why!"

So, in 2016, I intend to focus more on the "why!" Why was I called to be a pastor? Why do I do what I do? Why do I prepare diligently for sermons? Why do I push myself so hard to crunch numbers and balance budgets? Why do I continue to cast a vision for more programs and more small groups? Why do I organize mission trips? Why do I love working with kids and youth? Why do I rush to the hospital when someone is sick or having surgery? The "why" matters!

Today, I find myself reflecting on *how did I do?* Did I pay more attention to the "why" during the month of January? If I am honest, I didn't. I struggled to keep up with generating necessary reports for leadership committees. I struggled not just to make time to have coffee and conversation with individuals who need my attention and guidance, but also those who reciprocate and perhaps unknowingly invest their time in me. I struggled to carve out enough time to speak to God and listen for His voice. I struggled to eliminate distractions and focus on the things that are of lasting value and importance. I struggled to remember that my first calling is to be a child of God. Next, I am a husband and father. Lastly, I am a pastor. My primary responsibility is to connect deeply with God.

How did you do over the past few weeks? Did you focus more on the "what" and the "how" than you did on the "why?" Was your time occupied so much with "doing" that you dedicated little or no time to just "being?" If you are like me, you need to start each day with Psalm 46, *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble... "Be still, and know that I am God."*

I invite you to reflect and grow with me during 2016. Honestly evaluate your relationship with Christ... not so that you can identify all the ways in which you let God down, but rather so that you can know where you are and where you want to be. Remember, 2016 is "The Year of the Lord's Favor!" You were chosen by God and you are his favored child. Spend time in honest conversation with God. *Be Still and just Be Held!*

Ash Wednesday

Hillside will have an **Ash Wednesday** service on **Wednesday, February 10 @ 6:00 p.m.** in the Worship Center. There will be a meal at 5:00 p.m. and all scheduled classes (adult and children) will begin immediately following the service at approximately 6:25 p.m.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join Director of Family Ministries Susan Carey for the Lenten study *The Easter Experience* beginning Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm (immediately following the Ash Wednesday service). During this six-week study featuring Pastor Kyle Idleman, we'll explore the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ presented cinematically and then we'll delve into discussion and application. This study is appropriate for both older youth and adults, and a weekday morning option may also be available soon. For more information or to reserve a participant's guide, contact Susan Carey (s.carey@hillsideprinceton.org).

FATHER & SON BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to participate in a six-week Father-Son study during Lent. Ideally this is targeted at fathers with middle-school and high-school age sons. This study seeks to create discussion around growing young men through discipleship and mentorship by positive male relationships. Don't have a son? Maybe you are meant to bring a grandson, nephew, or neighbor.

When: Wednesdays (2/10, 2/17, 2/24, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16)

Where: Room 6

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m. (following Wednesday night Family Builders' Meal)

Questions: Contact George Willis @ 812-664-6057 or visit

www.manhoodjourney.org

CONFIRMING YOUR FAITH | Pastor Chris Neikirk

This class is for any youth above grade 6 that was unable to participate in the fall confirmation class as well as any adult interested in getting a deeper explanation surrounding his or her faith. Please do not let your age keep you from having a basic understanding of your faith. The opportunity for baptism, re-affirmation of baptism, confirmation and membership will be offered to everyone completing the class. This will take place on Easter Sunday. However, none of the aforementioned is required upon completion.

Dates: 6 Weeks, 2/14/16 through 3/20-16

Time: Sunday mornings during Sunday School @ 9:40-10:40am

Where: Led by Pastor Chris in his office

RSVP: Please contact the office by 2/10/16. Space is limited.

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH GROUP | Andrea Dyehouse

We are starting again with anyone/group who would like to help feed our youth & leaders (about 40+) on Sunday evenings. If you are interested, please contact Andrea Dyehouse at adyehouse@twc.com or 812-215-0259.

THANK YOU

- Friends & Congregation of Hillside,

A note to say Thank you for your generosity & support to our students during Christmas. It is always greatly appreciated!

Lisa Burger, School Counselor