

HILLSIDE
— NOW SERVING —

828 West Archer Road
Princeton, IN 47670

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Non-Profit Organ.

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HILLSIDE
— NOW SERVING —

HILLSIDE HAPPENINGS



January 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

Jan. 6	Meatloaf, Smashed Potato, Green Beans
Jan. 13	Lasagna, Garlic Toast
Jan. 20	BBQ Pork, Cheesy Potato
Jan. 27	Baked Potato bar with fixings, 2-3 types of meat

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 JANUARY 11 AT 4:00 P.M.

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.

Our January meal will be Turkey Pot Pie.

In Christ's Service,
Gail Miller and Lisa Naas

HILLSIDE APPAREL

The following Hillside apparel pieces are for sale on a first come, first served basis. See Susan Carey if you'd like to make a purchase.

- Medium ¾ Zip Gray Fleece Pullover with Red Methodist Flame Bling (\$35)
- 3XL ¾ Zip Gray Fleece Pullover with Clear Methodist Flame Bling (\$37)
- Medium Iron Gray Long-Sleeved T-shirt with Red Screen-Print Logo (\$15)
- Medium Red Tie-Dye T-shirt with Silver Screen-Print Logo (\$12)
- (2) Medium Journey Off the Map T-shirt (\$5)
- Youth Medium Red T-shirt with Silver Screen-Print Logo (\$10)
- Youth Small Journey Off the Map T-shirt (\$5)
- (2) Youth Medium Journey Off the Map T-shirt (\$5 each)
- (3) Youth Large Journey Off the Map T-shirt (\$5 each)

2016 Meeting Dates and Times

Board of Directors

Paul McDaniel, Chair -- pmcd@twc.com

Home: 812-385-5367 -- Cell: 812-677-3613

Wednesdays – 1/20, 4/20, 8/17, 10/19 @ **5:30 pm**
(Plus special called meetings as needed set by chair)

Missions

Greg Mason, chair — gregmason@twc.com

Home: 812-385-2852 — Cell: 812-677-2606

Sundays — 1/10, 2/14, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11,
10/9, 11/13, 12/11, @ Noon
(Plus special called meetings as needed set by chair)

2016 Meeting Dates and Times

Staff Parish Relations

Dick Blackburn, Chair -- Rblack248@aol.com

Home: 812-386-8000 -- Cell: 812-779-7458

Mondays -- 1/18, 4/18, 5/16, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17 @ **5:30 pm**

(11/21 if needed)

(Plus special called meetings as needed set by chair)

Finance

Neil Eifert, Chair -- neifert839@gmail.com

Home: 812-386-6393 -- Cell: 812-480-1493

Mondays – 1/18, 4/18, 5/16, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, @ **7:00 pm**

(11/21 if needed)

(Plus special called meetings as needed set by chair)

Trustees

Leon Stone, Chair -- stonelc@mw.twbc.com

Home: 812-385-8643 -- Work: 812-385-7272

Wednesdays – 1/6, 2/3, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 8/3, 9/7, 10/5, 11/2 @

6:00 pm *(No July mtg, 12/7 if needed)*

(Plus special called meetings as needed set by chair)

NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL | Chastity Braswell

Hillside Preschool had a float in the Christmas Parade. Our theme was "All Different Yet Special To God." The children had a great time throwing candy and waving to everyone that they knew. A big thank you to our Advisory Board for all their work and time that they put into our float.

We ended 2015 with a wonderful Christmas program. The children had a wonderful time sharing the true meaning of Christmas. We want to give a big thank you for all the church members that helped with our program. Your time is very much appreciated!

And now to start 2016, the children are going to start learning all about snow and what winter is about.

Our monthly bible verses are:

Psalm 139:14, Galatians 5:14, Ecclesiastes 3:11, and John 1:3. We are looking forward to a great new year here at Hillside Preschool. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy 2016.

LITTLE FRIENDS CLUB | Sarah Kruse

Welcome to 2016 and I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year! This month in Little Friends Club we will be discussing Moses. I am excited to see what the children have to say about Moses and the stories they will be learning. As always, we thank you for bringing your little person to Little Friends Club. We LOVE having them with us on Wednesday nights!

UPCOMING SERMONS

PROCLAMATION 2016: The Year of the Lord's Favor

- Jan. 3** "Youth Sunday"
Jan. 10 "Good News, We've Been Set Free!"
Jan. 17 "Our Agenda: Rebuild, Restore & Renew"
Jan. 24 "Susan Carey"
Jan. 31 "The Reward & Everlasting Covenant is Ours"
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HILLSIDE MEN | Matt Robbins

Hillside United Methodist Men will meet again for a nutritious breakfast on Jan. 9 @ 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, devotion and interesting programs. Invite all of your lady friends to join us on January 15 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.

APPLE PIE INFORMATION

We made a profit of about \$10,312.29. Thank you again to all who contributed!



NEW SUPPORT GROUP!

"I've never been to a support group like this before. I don't know what to expect."

You'll discover there are people who understand your hurts, emotions, and painful experiences! When someone you love dies, it's common to feel isolated. You'll find that you are not alone, that there are others who understand what you are going through.

You'll learn helpful, practical information that will help you recover from the pain of grief and loss. The DVD videos feature top experts on grief recovery subjects and case studies of people just like you, who have been through the grief experience.

You'll have the chance to talk about your experiences. It can be very healing to tell others what you are going through. And while you have the opportunity to tell your story, there's never pressure for you to do so if you don't feel like it.

You'll have a workbook for personal study and to write down things you've learned. The workbook provides opportunity for further study about the grief process and personal reflection about your grief. The weekly journaling questions help you sort through your emotions. You can tear out and carry with you the perforated "Care Cards" for words of encouragement during the lowest points of your day.

You'll begin to gain closure in your loss. It's sometimes hard to move on in life when you are still dealing with the grief and emptiness that happens after a loved one dies. You'll learn how to go through a healthy season of grieving, then begin transitioning to emotional and spiritual wholeness. We call this "your journey from mourning to joy."

You'll become part of a "family." The group members often tell us that they feel like their group has become a family, that they made new friends and are around people they can relate to.

You'll discover hope for the future. While things may look bleak now, you'll learn ways to restore your hope and rebuild your life.

Mary Richardson (812-779-6014) and Davarna Rainbolt (812-779-6986) will co-facilitate this Grief Share Grief support program. The program is a 13 week course with an introductory meeting Monday, Jan. 18 at 6 pm with the program meeting 6-8pm weekly beginning Jan 25. The program is designed around a dvd series and workbooks. There is a \$20 donation requested for the workbooks, but not required.

Special Music – The past couple of summers, we have enjoyed the gifts of several special musicians while our choir and/or praise team takes a much-needed break. Each time we bring in a guest musician, it costs approximately \$150.00. Would you like to provide the music for one Sunday?

Worship Computer – All of our worship services are “powered” and “guided” by a computer which is broadcast on our screens. Our worship computer is near the end of its usefulness. We need to purchase an up-to-date, high-functioning desktop computer for worship. Do you have the resources available to purchase a new computer at a cost of approximately \$2000.00?

HD Cameras – Each Sunday, we record our services. We provide DVD’s to nursing home residents and shut-ins so that they can remain connected to our church. We also upload our sermons to our website and they are watched by individuals around the world. We need to replace them. Total cost for equipment and installation is \$10,000. Do you have the means to purchase the new cameras?

With only one or two exceptions, all of the above will be accomplished on some level, but perhaps not to the level that we have been accustomed to or that we would desire. On more than one occasion, generous people within the church have said to me, “Please let me know if there is a special project or ministry need that is underfunded.” Well, now you know. Please do not hesitate to ask me if you have questions about our budget, where or how we spend the church’s money, or if you would like a more extensive explanation about any specific ministry item.

Thank you for your continued generosity as you faithfully participate in the ministries of Hillside. God continues to bless our ministry together. 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.

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH GROUP | Andrea Dyehouse

Can’t believe it’s already 2016! January is going to be a busy month for the youth. Sunday, Jan. 3 is “Youth Sunday” at both worship services. Plans for our Winter Retreat are scheduled for Jan. 22-23. All youth interested are to talk with one of the leaders.

Also, our “Annual Valentine’s Banquet” is just around the corner. Mark Saturday, Feb. 6 on your calendars. Please get your ticket (s) from any of our Jr/Sr Youth or one of their leaders. The proceeds from this year’s banquet will go toward the Youth Mission Trip 2016 to New Mexico.

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@insightbb.com or 812-215-0259.

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- Zeke & I would like to thank Pastor Chris and all church friends who came to visit with us while Zeke has been sick. We have been blessed with your visits to know you care. He got a good report after his last treatment. He is very weak. His chair & sofa are his special places. Please stop by anytime and visit with him. He would love it!
God Walks With Us! Margaret & Zeke
 - Dear Hillside, thanks for your gift for our ministry in Ecuador. We appreciate your support & prayers for us! We have started a ministry in 2 counties where there is no protestant church and also working in a small community by visiting twice a month with a believer from a church we attend in Catamayo (where we live).
Tom & Susan Stiles
 - To the members of Hillside Church,
All is calm. All is bright. Merry Christmas! Thanks for the delicious Thanksgiving meal. Everyone enjoyed them. Thanks for your service to Princeton.
Marlene Bassett

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR | Sandy Nixon

We are grateful! As we look back on 2015, we recognize that there are so many people who help us on a weekly basis, and we are extremely grateful. The list is long, and at the risk of leaving someone out, we'd like to acknowledge several people for their help with the 8:30 service: Nelda Chestnut, Judi Tate, Mike Watkins, Ruth Dyer, and Steve Nixon, three of whom play instruments every Sunday; Jeannie Robbins, who faithfully makes sure the screen visuals are up there for us each Sunday; our sound tech, Mitchell Cottingham, and his able assistants, Ike Farris and Bob Townsend, without whose help we wouldn't be able to hear; Sharon Eifert for working with the acolytes and keeping their robes ready (and Bobbie Bridgland for polishing up their candlelighters!); Brian St. Clair, who makes sure the choir has seats on the risers every Sunday; parents who are so supportive of their children being in children's choir and serving as acolytes; the 36 or so choir members who faithfully come to Wednesday evening rehearsals and show up early on Sunday mornings to lead worship through music; and last but certainly not least, the Hillside congregation for your support and encouragement!

Children's choir: The children's choir has been a joy to work with since we started on Mother's Day in 2015. Three of the original members graduated to adult choir in September: Kaitlyn Carey, Jaleigh White, and Drew Morris. Current members of the choir are Addy Anderson (parents Shelby and Doug Anderson), Kendall Carey (parents Alex and Susan Carney), Cali Evans (parents Tom and Amy Evans), Crystal Lance (parents Kali and Jeremy Lance), Haley Lee (grandparents Gayle and John Lee), Ali Medler (parents Nick and Becky Medler), Violet St. Clair (parents Brian and Lisa St. Clair), and Jaylen White (parents Jenny and John White). I know you enjoy hearing them sing, so be sure to watch for them in 2016 (especially on Mother's Day!). And parents, we would love to have more children join the group, so if your children are in grades 2-5, please consider supporting them to sing with the children's choir. We practice at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in Room 7.

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The sky is not falling and we remain financially stable. However, we must live within our means and frugally monitor our finances to continue with our financial stability. With all that in mind, I want to share with you a few areas that you might be interested in giving an additional gift, above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings, to directly fund a ministry from which you have benefited or been blessed. Sort of a post or pre-Christmas wish list.

Bereavement Meals – We provide a meal following funerals and most families make a monetary gift that covers some of the cost. However, not all families can. Approximately \$100.00 would cover the cost of fried chicken for one meal. Could you sponsor a meal?

Doughnuts & Coffee – Our lobby is a busy place on Sundays and refreshments greatly enhance the time of fellowship. Conversation is better with coffee, right? Approximately \$65.00 would cover the cost of refreshments for one Sunday. Could you sponsor a Sunday?

Church Van – Father time caught up with our old van and we were forced to purchase a new one. It is used daily by our preschool, monthly by our Boy Scouts and routinely by our youth and other groups within the church. We still owe approximately \$6000.00 on this new van with monthly payments of \$200.00. Could you make one monthly payment or perhaps make a large gift to help pay it off?

Vacation Bible School – We hosted over 90 kids for VBS in 2015. With snacks and materials, it cost approximately \$25.00 per child. Could you cover the cost of one to four children in VBS?

Summer Camp – Hillside generously budgets and offers a scholarship of \$200.00 per camper toward fees associated with United Methodist Camps. Would you like to provide a scholarship for one child?

Sunday School, Small Groups and Family Resources – Each year, the church spends approximately \$5000.00 on educational materials or an average of \$10.00 per person served. A gift of \$50.00 will pay for the resources of 5 children, youth or adults.

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A 2016 CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

2015 was a tight year financially for Hillside. At the writing of this article, we are on pace to spend approximately 86% of our \$448,200.00 operating budget while we anticipate receiving about 82%, a shortfall of approximately \$18,000. While that is not a tremendous shortfall, it a shortfall none-the-less and we cannot continue to operate in the "red." Therefore, the budget that Hillside's Finance Team and Board of Directors approved for 2016 was greatly reduced to reflect anticipated actual giving. Hillside's operating budget for 2016 is \$385,470 or exactly 86% of the 2015 operating budget.

Also, at the time of writing this article, our mortgage balance is approaching \$600,000.00. Wow and well done! In just 28 short months, we have reduced our mortgage by almost \$450,000.00. That is an astronomical accomplishment. However, like our operating budget, giving toward the mortgage has slowed a bit. So, in 2016, we have budgeted \$137,800 as compared to \$143,000.00 in 2015. We will make 26 bi-weekly payments of \$5,300.00 with approximately \$4,200.00 going directly toward the principle balance.

What should you, Hillside church member, "do" with this information? First pray. Pray for God to continue to bless our stewardship of his resources. We want to remain faithful stewards of all that is placed within our care. Next, evaluate your own giving and seek to remain faithful to the commitments you have made toward supporting the ministries of Hillside. Everyday operating expenses include utilities, staff, programs, missions, assistance, conference/district support, and special events. Lastly, faithfully participate in the ministries of Hillside and remain faithful to your calling by living out your faith.

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Acolytes: Another new component at 8:30 worship service began with Advent this year. I am sure you have noticed our acolytes bringing the light of Christ into the service each Sunday. As with the children's choir, these children are in grades 2-5, and we would love to have as many children as possible in these grades to participate (and older children would be welcome as well). Parents, would you support your children being involved as acolytes one Sunday every 6-8 weeks? We know that many of our congregation have fond memories of serving as acolytes in their younger days, so let's continue with the tradition!

And adult choir: The adult choir will continue supporting worship in 2016. We will be finding and learning new songs to support the content of messages brought to us by Pastor Chris Neikirk and Susan Carey. We, too, would love to have new members, and we make it as easy as possible. You just need to love music and enjoy singing! We'll take care of the rest! Please join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 on the risers in the worship center for a joyful new 2016 experience!

NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Brenda Witt

As we are trying to stay within the church budget for 2016 I would like to offer again the choice of receiving your monthly newsletter as an email from me or you may view online at www.hillsideprinceton.org. This will help with paper & ink cost & mailing fees.

You may contact the office at bwitt@hillsideprinceton.org or leaving me a note on my desk with your name and the way you would like to receive your newsletter.

Thanks! Brenda

NOTE FROM PASTOR CHRIS NEIKIRK

Why?

Happy New Year! Are you a New Year's resolution type person? Many of us start off the New Year with a list of "will-do's" or "try-to-improves" or "try-not-to-do's" only to abandon the good behavior or improved healthy living habits for the comfortable and convenient. So how did you do last year? Did you check a few things off your bucket list? Did you start a new exercise regimen? Did you eat more vegetables and fewer sweets? Did you give up sugary soft drinks? Did you call your loved ones more often? Did you spend more time with family? Did you finish that degree or continuing education program? Did you get that better job or promotion? Did you get married or welcome a new life into your home? Did you empty the nest? Did you sever that destructive, codependent relationship? Did you deepen your relationship with God?

That last one... it can be a tough one for many of us because it requires intentional action on our part. That's my New Year's resolution for this year! I want to deepen my relationship with God! I think I have shared with you before, but a wise friend once told me, "Don't ever let the work you do for God replace the time you spend with God." Ouch! Can I let you in on a little secret? We pastors, we struggle to maintain that deep and intimate relationship with God just as much as you "non-pastor" people. It is especially difficult if you are "action-oriented" and "results-driven" like I am. Sometimes, I get so caught up in the "what" and the "how" that I neglect the "why!"

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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 of 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!

God is love and Jesus Christ is the hope of the world! I know that and believe it deep within my soul. I am first called into a deep and intimate relationship with God. I am called to share that with those who I am privileged to serve and lead in every situation and in every circumstance. I am blessed to have another year to do so. We are people who are favored by God! God has set his affections on us and has gifted us with a hope to share. For me, 2016 is going to be about living in "The Year of the Lord's Favor!" Check out Isaiah 61 to learn more about "The Year of the Lord's Favor."

What is your part in the mission of Hillside? We are called to LOVE God, SERVE others, GROW in Christ, and GO live out our faith. Will you embrace the vision? Hillside is a center of hope in our community as we reflect the love of Jesus.

Blessings – Pastor Chris