



*Hillwood Presbyterian
Church
"Highlander"*

**"Serving God By Serving Others"
February, 2018**

**HILLWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCUSA)
CORE VALUES**

We are a loving and caring community of believers in Christ.
We are welcoming to all visitors and inclusive of all those seeking a faith community.
As a congregation we strive for continual spiritual growth.
We search for opportunities to serve our neighbors and those in need while being good
stewards of our resources.
Our worship and music are liturgically based.

February 21, 2016

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**Scripture Readings**

**February 4**

**5th Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:21-31  
Response: Psalm 147:1-11  
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:29-39

**February 18**

**1st Sunday of Lent**

First Lesson: Genesis 9:8-17  
Response: Psalm 25:1-10  
Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:18-22  
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

**February 11**

**Transfiguration of the Lord**

First Lesson: 2 Kings 2:1-12  
Response: Psalm 50:1-6  
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Gospel Lesson: Mark 9:2-9

**February 25**

**2nd Sunday of Lent**

First Lesson: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Response: Psalm 22:23-31  
Second Lesson: Romans 4:13-25  
Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

## Pastor News

### Pastor's 2017 Annual Report

I began as Interim Pastor among Hillwood Presbyterian Church on 21 February 2017. As I look back upon the past eleven months together, several accomplishments come to mind.

- Listening Sessions for congregational input followed by the Holy Cow Consulting Church Assessment Tool (CAT) process – all of which helped me and the church leaders to gain organizational intelligence
- Leading a *Pathway to Renewal* study with 12 participants, which (in conjunction with the CAT process) has led to the formation of a 2018 Renewal Team
- Working with the session to attend to spiritual renewal and business practices for moving forward
- Organizing the HVAC Task Force. Not only does their work show a commitment to church renewal, their work together also has shown the teamwork and skill of Hillwood members in moving towards accomplishing a goal together.
- Continuing to build a stronger relationship with Playcare through board involvement, reading to children in various classrooms, leading a Teacher Training session, and being available to the director and board moderator for support
- Beginning relationships with other Hillwood-West Meade clergy and congregations for shared neighborhood ministry in the future

The year included a few challenges, including the slow process of renewal in an established church where it takes effort to *get the ball rolling* and strategic leadership to keep it going at a sustainable pace. Balancing administrative transitional ministry needs, homebound/other member pastoral care needs, and other weekly responsibilities (while keeping myself fresh and ready for daily ministry) has been a challenge as well.

As we look to 2018, my work among Hillwood will include creating together a master calendar of the year's ministries, completing transition projects (like the Church Bylaws, the use of a unified church software for tracking membership and statistics, renewal ministry efforts, and updating policies/procedures relating to personnel, safety, and the session's structure as a six-person team), and continued integration of the church's relationship with Playcare for joint ministry possibilities. I also will continue my Presbytery work on bringing to fruition one of the Presbytery's Vision Goals for 2020: creating and hosting Leadership Excellence Training. As the leader of the Leadership Excellence Training Team since 2016, we launched in August 2017 a 10-month, 12 participants training for Presbytery pastors and Christian Educators.

Please know there are several steps I have witnessed in Hillwood Presbyterian Church, which I celebrate:

Trying new things! The Walking Group & Fellowship, Pet Blessing, Special Worship Services like the Hymn Sing & Taizé Worship & Hanging of the Greens, the Decades of Dedication luncheon, Reverse Trick-o-Treating & Christmas Caroling to the homebound

Attention to and improvements in the church's facility show signs of flexibility and new life among the church

Wide involvement in Listening Sessions that allowed me to get to know the church members and history better and allowed leaders to gain wisdom and mutuality

Committing to and embracement of the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) process & Vital Signs learnings

The work of the Renewal Team, which is just getting started to bring new community connection and member services

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Interim Pastor these past eleven months! And know I look forward to the work that is before us next!

Peace in Christ,  
Pastor Jule

## Announcements

### **February 11th and 25th**



Sunday afternoons beginning in February (through mid-April), a class for children and youth of the church and surrounding community will be held. This class will be using the PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) curriculum. Open to all, those in Scouting programs also can earn a Scout Religious Badge through these classes. Pastor Jule will teach the class and Kendra Watkins will coordinate. Contact either of them with questions or to register. Organization session will be held the afternoon of 11 February. The first session will be Sunday afternoon, February 25 (following the stated session meeting).

### **March 11**

THE RENEWAL TEAM invites all Hillwood Presbyterian Church members and friends to a **Member Gifts Potluck on Sunday, 11 March** after worship. All are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck item to share. The time together will include ways to discover your own gifts and abilities for use in Hillwood ministries and beyond. Contact Renewal Team leader Jennifer Stootsberry with questions. Can't make the potluck? Look for additional upcoming tools to use in discovering and employing your gifts for ministry.

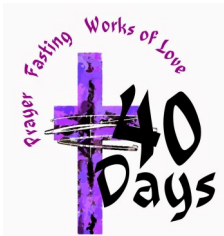
The Renewal Team is looking into setting up classes for the congregation and neighborhood to be held in the church facility (for a fee to participants). Please contact the Renewal Team regarding interest in any of the following potential classes: Yoga, Chair Yoga, Balance Class, Meditation, Tai Chi. Other suggestions? Please let the Renewal Team know. (Team leader Jennifer Stootsberry, Beth Cooper, Cynthia Palmer, Sheila Sferrella, and Kendra Watkins).

### **March 14**



Lent begins on Wednesday, 14 February 2018. Join for worship at 3 p.m. followed by fellowship coffee – all to be held in the parlor. The service will include the invitation to the Lenten discipline, the imposition of ashes, and other liturgy for Ash Wednesday. Contact Pastor Jule with questions about the service and Martha Garman to be a part of providing fellowship treats for all.

### **Three Ways to Learn this Lent**



During the season of Lent, make plans to attend Sunday School from 9:30 – 10 a.m. in the Media Room. Pastor Jule will lead a Lenten study of the resource: *The God We Can Know*. The 7-week study will include a DVD by Rob Fuquay followed by class discussion. The study will explore Jesus' "I am" statements about his identity in the gospel of John. The video, which was filmed in the Holy Land, will show the sites where Jesus made several of the "I am" statements.

Learners will spend the season of Lent exploring their personal response to Jesus question: "Who do you say that I am?" Contact Pastor Jule with questions. OR: Can't make it Sunday mornings, consider getting the resource for use at home this Lent. Go to [Bookstore.UpperRoom.org](http://Bookstore.UpperRoom.org) for a paperback, eBook, or Kindle version of *The God We Can Know*. To sign up for an eCourse, go to [eLearnings.UpperRoom.org](http://eLearnings.UpperRoom.org).

An Invitation to an Evening Learning Series to be held in February at The Temple. Join the West Nashville community as Vanderbilt Divinity School New Testament Professor Dr. A. J. Levine leads a series entitled "The Bible & Social Justice." All sessions are held at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at The Temple in Belle Meade (5015 Harding Pike, Nashville, 37205). Dates and titles of the individual sessions are: **Feb. 6, "The Bible and Immigration," Feb. 13, "The Bible and Health Care," and Feb. 20, "The Bible and Poverty."** The whole community is invited to attend. Dr. Levine's series tend to be very well attended, so arrive early to ensure parking and a seat.

Learn on your own this Lent by committing to read at least one of the following resources. Pastor Jule makes the following book recommendations for Hillwood members and friends – all of which are sure to enrich your own faith life while giving a helpful framework as the church undergoes a season of renewal.

*The Awkward Season: Prayers for Lent* by Pamela C. Hawkins (2009). The Rev. Dr. Hawkins offers Christian pilgrims a prayer path to follow through Lent. Prayers of invocation, confession, intercession, and thanksgiving are shaped around a theme prompted by the Psalm for the day. A great resource for taking on a daily discipline of prayer and scripture reading during the season of Lent, the resource also includes a finger labyrinth as an optional prayer tool.

*An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor (2009). Beloved author and storyteller The Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor presents ways to wake up the sacred in our everyday lives. With everything from the practice of waking up to God (vision) to the practice of paying attention (reverence) to the practice of living with purpose (vocation); Taylor weaves the wisdom of her own path with the common experiences of daily life to help readers embrace all of life as the ground for encountering God.

*Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass. Written in 2012, this book explores the challenges for churches in contemporary culture. It also outlines the new Spiritual Awakening that is taking place and key understandings for congregations as they seek to have a vibrant ministry today and into the future.

*Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans (2015). Blogger and Millennial spokesperson Rachel Held Evans takes readers along on the personal experience (common to many millennials) of searching for a community of faith with balm enough to calm her misgivings over church scandals, hypocrisy, and politics. Centered around sacramental living; her memoir leads through the liturgical year with stories and insights of baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death. With the honesty of a millennial cynic who continually is returned by grace to the pull of belonging in community; Evans invites readers to deepen their own *search for Sunday*.

### **EASTER BUNNY HELPERS**

**Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 17, 2018, TBA.**

Calling all Easter Bunny helpers!! It's time to make eggs. This year we need plastic eggs, candy, stickers, etc. to stuff the eggs. We will meet after Worship, TBA to stuff eggs. You may bring all items to the church office.



## **Highlights of Stated Meeting of the Session January 21, 2017**

- \*Jennifer Stootsberry was elected as 2018 Clerk of Session.
- \*Welcomed Tom Diehl & Martha Garman back as Elders, class of 2020.
- \*Elva Christopher's funeral & burial service will be on Thursday, January 25 at Woodlawn.
- \*Ash Wednesday service will be on February 14 at 3 p.m. in the parlor, followed by a fellowship coffee.
- \*Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 17, time TBD.
- \*Approval given to have Olshan correct the water problem in the closet under the Narthex.
- \*Approval was given to purchase & install RING audio/video doorbell system for the side door.
- \*Playcare has had one teacher resign and the assistant director was terminated. Many thanks to Josie Von Nieda for the extra time she is spending with Darlene to help Playcare through these staff changes.
- \*The renewal team will meet on Sunday, January 28 after the congregational meeting. This team is exploring yoga/balance classes (for a fee) at HPC and a class for children/youth of the church and community using the PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) curriculum. Open to all, those in Scouting programs also can earn a Scout Religious Badge through these classes. Pastor Jule will teach the class and Kendra Watkins will coordinate.
- \*Safety of our congregation is an on-going concern. The *Book of Order* charges session to manage the physical property of the congregation for the furtherance of its mission. Please remember:
  - Do not leave valuables visible in cars and remember to lock your vehicle when on church property.
  - HPC facility and property will be maintained as a weapon-free property. Signage will be posted where Metro Police recommends.
  - All exterior doors will be locked at the start of worship.
  - An usher will remain in the narthex to let in those arriving after the start of worship.
  - A "light" doorbell has been installed on the sanctuary front door which can be pushed to notify ushers that assistance at the door is needed.
  - Doors between the sanctuary and the narthex will remain open.
- \*Prayer Requests: Jean Odom, family & friends of Elva Christopher, Faye Collins, John Wannamaker, Barbara Oonk's sister Janice, Beebe Bryant.

Jennifer Stootsberry  
Clerk of Session

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**“Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Jesus Christ.”**



**(Philippians 4:6-7)**

**New Concerns:** Bill Boyte; Carol Stolz, friend of Sharon & Kathy;  
Family of Elva Christopher; Family of Faye Collins.  
Janice, sister of Barbara Oonk

**Ongoing Concerns:** William Ridley, Cindy Wedel  
Brian Warford's mother-in-law;

**Homebound Concerns:** Gail Allen;  
John Wannamaker; Ann Swift, Ed Hogg's mother

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## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our Study guide for the 2027-2028 is titled “Cloud of Witnesses”. *In nine lessons*, author Melissa Bane Sevier invites us to explore major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of *community*. In our January meeting we will be discussing lessons Five and Six.

Lesson Five titled “*In Community with the Tradition of the Past*” helps us remember the things our ancestors in the faith have bequeathed to us. *The faith tradition supports us by showing us both the successes and stumbles of biblical characters*. We also have our own *Book of Confessions* that guides us in our Reformed tradition. The scriptures for this lesson are Hebrews 3:1-6; 11.

Lesson Six titled “*In Community with the Reality of the Present*” considers how *communities of faith support each other during troubled times*. Hebrews was written to a people suffering under persecution. The scriptures for this lesson are Hebrews 2:10-18 and 10:34-35; Mark 8:31-38.

If anyone wants to join us this month; we are meeting on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Church library at 10:00 am. Remember in case of bad weather we follow the lead of Metro Schools – if school is out we will not have our meeting.

Linda Bozza  
Secretary

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## Chancel Flowers

Flowers for the Church can be signed up for on the list next to the parlor. You may bring your own arrangements of any type. However if you order flowers, please make arrangements with the office for delivery. Flower Express no longer has access to deliver on Saturdays.





Hillwood Presbyterian Church has a new Wi Fi system.  
When you need to use it please use Hillwood - guest.

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## YOU ARE INVITED

|                        |                                                    |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, February 5     | 6:00 Men's Club at Dalt's                          |
| Tuesday, February 13   | 10:00 WOC meeting                                  |
| Wednesday, February 14 | 3:00 Ash Wednesday Worship<br>Fellowship to follow |

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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**REMEMBER** the 5 cents-a-meal, the HPC Living Waters mission, and the Pastor's Discretionary Aid Fund donations are taken every week.

Donations for HURRICANE RELIEF also can be given to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Go to [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org) online, or write checks for disaster relief to Hillwood Presbyterian with memo line marked: PDA.

**SECURITY:** If you are coming to the church building, please call 352-6310 first. If you come by and ring the bell, someone will be with you as soon as possible. Please **do not** come up through Playcare.

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR UPCOMING SERVICE

### February 4

INTERIM MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. Jule M. Nyhuis; LITURGIST: Tom Diehl  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Brian Warford; ORGANIST: Michael Hooper  
USHERS: \*Walter Crawford, Bill Boyte, Jan and Tom Diehl  
COMMUNION PREPARER: Jennifer Stootsberry  
COMMUNION ELDERS: Linda Bozza, Lisa Houx, Martha Garman, Bernie Palmer  
Jennifer Stootsberry,

### February 11

INTERIM MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. Jule M. Nyhuis; LITURGIST: Sharon Shields  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Brian Warford; ORGANIST: Michael Hooper  
USHERS: \*Clyde Cole, Kathy Bright, Lisa Houx, Bernie Palmer

### February 18

GUEST MINISTER: Rev. Rosanne Anderson; LITURGIST: Beth Cooper  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Brian Warford; ORGANIST: Michael Hooper  
USHERS: \*Mary Allen, Linda Bozza, Carl Hopper

### February 25

INTERIM MINISTER: The Rev. Dr. Jule M. Nyhuis; LITURGIST: Sharon Shields  
MUSIC DIRECTOR: Brian Warford; ORGANIST: Michael Hooper  
USHERS: \*Barbara & Bill Oonk