



**Hillcrest Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**

Ministers.....*All Members of Hillcrest Church*  
Interim Pastor.....*Rev. Dr. Loletta M. Barrett*  
Director of Youth Ministry.....*Sally Schacht*  
Director of Children's Ministry.....*K.C. Coonis*  
Director of Music.....*Debbie Carter*  
Organist/Pianist.....*Colleen Keith*  
Country Day School Director.....*Joan Edgerton*  
Country Day School Director.....*Danielle Darlow*  
Moderator.....*Diana Ford*  
Vice-Moderator.....*Gail Stier*  
Church Secretary.....*Howard McCoy*  
Treasurer & Financial Secretary. *.Laurie Gjoraas*



**"REVERENDLY"**  
**SPEAKING**

*August 23, 2009*

Meetings are something most of us avoid. Yet, in August I participated in some wonderful meetings with you one on one and in groups. It is the people that make all the difference, and I have found so many caring, talented and dedicated people among the folks at Hillcrest. Although the Spirit may be invisible, there is no doubt that it is moving among you. The summer has given me time to get to know some of you better before we delve into the interim work. I am grateful to those of you who have shared yourself with me; stories of your life and of your experience here at Hillcrest. I look forward to listening to more of you. Please seek me out if I don't get to you first!

The excitement is building for the new year! September is traditionally when the church year starts- with Rally Sunday on September 13. A wonderful group of people have gathered to make this Rally Sunday really special. All you need to do is invite your family and friends to come and celebrate with us. We're planning an opportunity to learn about all that goes on at Hillcrest and

the plans for the new year, and to celebrate where the Spirit is moving. When we stir our interest and excitement, and engage in the things we are passionate about, we want to invite and will be attractive to others, and we'll grow!

There are two things that I would like to highlight in particular, and specifically invite your participation. The first is worship. The center of the gathered community is our time of worship. I say our time of worship because it involves every individual. Each of us identifies with different rituals and traditions, understands worship, and approaches or feels the presence of the Divine in different ways. We introduce different things in worship to enhance the experience: to identify what is uplifting, what creates a sense of community, what provides comfort, what enlivens, and what deepens our experience of the Divine. One plan among several we are working on is to bring art the church owns into the sanctuary, to celebrate, enjoy, and add to the beauty of our sanctuary.

You are needed: to provide input, to help plan, to help lead and to fully participate. Worship- liturgy is literally: the work of the people. Please understand that what you find "good" in worship may not be helpful to someone else, and what feels strange to someone else may be comforting to you. I invite you to think, talk (and listen) to others, and provide input on what is "worshipful" to you. If we engage with openness and interest together, it will not only be beautiful, we will come to know God and each other better, and build our community.

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**"REVERENDLY" SPEAKING** (Continued)

The second area is the specific work of the interim time. The opportunity to meet and worship with you, combined with insights from advanced interim ministry training, and with discussion of the transition team, have clarified specific areas of preparation that are needed before the search committee can start its work. Searching for a Pastor is different from any other hiring process. It requires the congregation to first identify who they have been, who they now are, and who God is calling them to become. We need to draw your "map of the future," because until it is clear where you are going, you cannot hope to find a spiritual leader to help you get there!

Our first step will be to review and celebrate your history at the Quarterly Congregational meeting on September 20 following worship. This date was planned to allow you and all our travelers to return from summer holidays. It is important that everyone –regardless of age, membership levels, or number of years of membership, participate. It is your church, your history, and your future. You are needed. I truly look forward to seeing you there.

Peace, Loletta

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**RALLY DAY!**

You are invited! On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 a.m. we will celebrate our church Rally Day, honoring the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our Art Festival with the theme: "50 Years of Artistic Expression." We invite you to join in celebrating all of our ministries and the many events planned for the upcoming church year. We will start the day with worship, and continue with a ministry faire, live demonstrations, and lunch (adults \$6, children \$4). Bring a friend! (Enclosed is an invitation you can share.) Wear something that makes you feel creative, or dress as the artist/dancer/floral decorator/actor/musician you are (or want to be). There is a place for you in the celebration, so if you want to help with planning, please call the church office. See you there!

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**KOINONIA/COUNCIL MEETING**

Our next Koinonia/Council meeting is Tuesday, September 8, 2009. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. in Barwick Hall. The business meeting begins at 6:45 p.m. All church members and friends are encouraged to attend.

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**QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, we will start out Interim work! This important Quarterly Congregational Meeting following worship will focus on the first step of our interim work: reviewing and celebrating history as a congregation. Everyone's participation is needed to make our interim work/celebration a success!

## HILLCREST COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Preschool Summer School ended on August 21<sup>st</sup>. We have had a fun summer with lots of art, cooking, science and dramatic play activities. To keep cool, the children have participated in lots of water play. We will begin the 2009-2010 school year with orientation on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. This is the time the parent brings the child to meet their teacher and visit their new classroom. The first days of school are September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We do have pre-K openings, so if you know of anyone, please send them our way. We are really looking forward to seeing the returning children as well as meeting the new ones too. It will be a great year.

Love, Joan & Dani

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday school is off to an exciting start with a fresh curriculum and implementing new activities and programs such as, Bible Bucks and "The Treasure Chest" where children will earn bible bucks for completing memory work, inviting friends to church, good behavior etc. which they can cash in for prizes from the treasure chest. Our Lagoon (nursery) will soon be transformed into an under the sea adventure room! Come visit us to see all that is new! Our G-Force "Hillcrest goes to the movies" day was a great success with 33 tickets sold (22 to new families!) Finally, the Hillcrest Rangers have been busy over the summer learning to barbeque, change oil, camping and shooting water balloons. So, if you are looking for fun, friendship and excitement come join us!

K.C. Coonis

## SAVING US MONEY IS EVERYONE'S JOB

Let this serve as a reminder from the Church Council that the drain of utility expense payments does not help us pay staff or maintain facility repairs. Our Hillcrest power (Edison) bill in July was \$2,300.00 and in August it was \$2,400.00. Much of this is air conditioning expense, the balance is lighting. To help reduce this expense,

please help with the following:

1. Set air conditioning not lower than 75 degrees. Turn it off when leaving. When room is not in use, shut it off.
2. Turn on the minimum lighting level. All the lights do not need to be on at once. Turn all lights off when leaving the room.
3. Use closed drapes to help shield rooms from afternoon sun and heat.

John van Barneveld

## SECURITY IS EVERYONE'S JOB

When using any part of the Church property, our Church Council asks you to remember to close and lock all doors and windows before leaving. In the past month our gardener's power tools were stolen from the upper parking lot while he was using a blower in the lower parking lot. Also a pop up tent loaned by a member for the Pancake Breakfast was stolen from the Barwick Hall entry. While we know that open doors and windows tend to welcome uninvited visitors, there are steps we can take to reduce future losses at Hillcrest:

1. Close doors behind you. Leaving doors open can not only jeopardize loss of our fine art and other property, but it can allow rodents / rats entry.
2. If windows are opened for ventilation, make sure they are closed when use of the room is finished.
3. Pick up after using any room. A clean and well maintained property will help attract new members.
4. Check all locks and doors when leaving and recheck to make sure all lights and air conditioning are off.

John van Barneveld

## REMINDER!

If you have not paid your conference dues for this year, please do so by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Dues are \$11.00 per member. Make your check payable to Hillcrest Church, indicating that it is for conference dues, and drop it in the offertory plate or mail it to the church, attention *Laurie Gjoraas*. Thank you!

## FALL FOOD DRIVE!

Hillcrest is once again asking for your non-perishable food items for our Fall Food Drive. We are doing it earlier this year so that we can give all the food to the Whittier and La Habra Food Banks in time for Thanksgiving. Please bring you donations to the church **Oct. 11-31**, and place them in the wooden box in the narthex. Your help is so greatly appreciated – there is a huge demand at every food bank this year. Thank you!

## TAI CHI ANYONE?

The Tai Chi class meets Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the patio area. Tai Chi is designed for anyone wishing to gain flexibility and balance, while learning a short form of shadow boxing. All ages and abilities are welcome - no experience is necessary! This is an open class and is FREE.

## THE HILLCREST BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Hillcrest Book Club is Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room. We have an informal discussion of recent fiction and non-fiction books, but occasionally they do an older classic. Watch the weekly bulletin or call the church office after September 1 for the September book of the month! Newcomers are always very welcome.

## MEMORIAL PLAQUE

If you wish to have the name of a loved one added to the Memorial Plaque in the Memorial Garden, please call the church office, (562) 947-3755, with the full name, year of birth and death. The bronze plaques are 8" x 1" and cost about \$96, at least for the last one we got.

## ADULT STUDY GROUP

The Adult Study Group meets on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. This group combines bible study and adult Sunday school. Choose the time most convenient for you.

### PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

We have received names of people willing to participate on the pastoral search committee, but nominations are still open and invited. We hope to vote (per the bylaws) at the Quarterly Meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. *Jane Fislser Hoffman*, the Interim Southern California-Nevada Conference Minister will be coaching us on the next steps, which include developing a church profile, determining our search criteria, and developing a salary and benefit package. If you are interested in helping or nominating someone for this important group, please contact *Gail Stier*, (562) 943-5675 or *Diana Ford* (562) 696-2166.

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### ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

We will close the month of September with another fun day on September 27<sup>th</sup>. The church picnic is for everyone. Fund, food and games for people of ALL ages! We will enjoy our beautiful church campus "park." If you want to help with planning, please call the church office!

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### PRAYER LIST

Please hold these people and their families in your prayers:

*Randy Brunk's family, Jerry Burchfield (Ana Luisa's friend), Phyllis Carter, Bob Casjens, Nick Coonis and Family on the death of Nick's grandfather, Sid, Crystal's family (Laurie Gjoraas' friend), Sally DuPont, Lois Eagan, Ken Frey, Dick Howell, Clifford Boyes' (Hyslop) family, Herb Ishii (Dick O'Dell's friend), Alice Jensen's family, Teresa Lewis, Owen Lynch, Jessica Padilla (Luis' sister), Cindy Rogers, Bill & Jan Schacht, Bob Treser, Linda Vander Wende, Wakefield family, Jean Wiley, Shirley Woodruff & family on the death of her brother, Ron Carroll.*

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### NEW ON OURWEBSITE NOW

You can now read the Pastor's sermons on the website! If you miss a Sunday, want to read the sermon, or want to share it with a friend, you can now find the Pastor's sermons on our website at [www.hillcrest-church.org](http://www.hillcrest-church.org). This is one way to interest your friends in worshipping with us! Or if you know of someone who cannot attend church, this is a way they can join our worshipping community from afar.

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### NOTE FROM KOINONIA #4

Our next special offering of the year is for *Neighbors In Need*, which will be collected on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Neighbors In Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds supports the Council for American Indian Ministry, and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Issues include the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Any size donation will be most appreciated. Thank you!

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### DEADLINE

The next **Hi-Lites** deadline is Sunday, September 20, 2009. Now "Nuff said!"