



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

Chip M. Anderson, Pastor (203) 450-2299

Worship and office address: 158 Davenport Ave, New Haven, CT 06519

Mailing Address: 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06510



December 2016 Monthly Update—News from CPC in the Hill



A Thanksgiving Meal Together—As Maxine, our CPC in The Hill administrative assistant, says, “Food calms the soul and lowers barriers.” At CPC in The Hill we believe that table fellowship is an important ingredient to the life of our church and our church’s presence in the neighborhood. We celebrate God’s presence in the park and on our streets with BBQ’s and with our monthly CPC in The Hill fellowship meals. This month we shared our annual Thanksgiving meal together with all the fixings. Early Christianity started at a table and then multiplied tables throughout an Empire. All were welcome at Christian tables. We intentionally attempt to repeat this in The Hill, believing that Jesus’ presence is most apparent at these inside and outside meals—multiplying his grace throughout the Hill.

Update on Ministry—Food becomes central in the month of November as people in the Hill seek to provide their families with a good Thanksgiving Day meal. The most asked question I receive in and outside our church fellowship is “Do you know where I can get a turkey and some help with a Thanksgiving meal for my family?” Food scarcity becomes a reality in November and (really) throughout the winter months here in the Hill. So, our members and I become, figuratively, the local 211 (help-line #) for food (and sleeping bags, blankets, etc. as many who are homeless prepare for winter, as well).

Pastoral care becomes vital as families deal with inner family struggles and issues, teenagers, and even college search for some of our high school seniors. Too many in our households need jobs—they have been actively making applications, but no offers. This is one, if not the greatest, burden on our families—male unemployment. My pastoral care even includes helping with resumes!

On the evening of November 19th, Lisa and I hosted our first Home Fundraiser. Using Facebook and personal invitations (85 in all) we were looking for 10 people who’d join us at our home in Bridgeport to hear about our Hill ministry and the vision we have for CPC in The Hill. We had thirteen join us for the evening. Our goal with home fundraisers is to add \$1,000 to our fundraising support. Between funds given that evening and the pledges made, we surpassed our goal. One couple committed themselves to doing a Home Fundraiser in their home in the Spring. And, we (the Andersons) will do another at our home in the Spring as well.



**If you might be interested in helping us by hosting a Home Fundraiser—some effort in inviting friends and family and a short two-hour gathering with light finger food—please, let us know.*

December News—we begin having morning services in mid-December on Sundays. This is a great answer to prayer, allowing us to re-kick our services at a time more attractive to those living in the Hill. Do pray to this end.

Check out our new Hill ministry video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyPUIMXKnNE>

Update on Prayer Partner Goals—Our goal for 2016 is to have 200 prayer partners. Currently we have 150 as November closes out. Granted we may have more because some of the 150 are couples and there are churches praying for us. Prayer partners receive daily requests (on Facebook) along with updates on answers to prayer and other praises. Prayer partners (those indicating typically through a personal contact or pledge card) receive monthly updates and monthly requests. If you are on Facebook, please request to join our CPC in The Hill Prayer Partners page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CPCintheHillPrayerPartners>). I post a daily request and give answer-to-prayer reports as well.

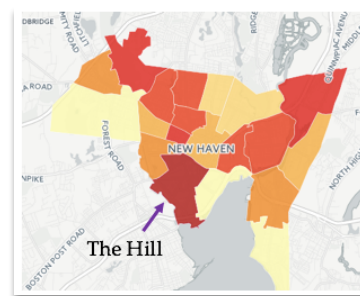
Update on Financial Goals— Our budget for the 2016–17 year is \$98,456. We are at 20% (\$9,792 given or pledged) of our financial support goal of \$48,456, leaving \$38,664 to raise for this year's budget. We are grateful for all those who have begun to support us with their kind gifts.

Our anchor church (CPC New Haven) and Mission Anabaino (www.anabaino.org) that initiated the Hill church plant have committed \$50,000 in support for this year. In December we should be more aware of the pledges from the Home Fundraiser (hosted at our home in Bridgeport) and a few others that we had heard were giving (and sending support).

*Please let us know if you would like to facilitate a home fundraiser on our behalf among your own family and friends. Additionally, if your church or Sunday school might be interested, we'd love to come share with them. Let us know.

Fundraising Impact on the Hill Church Plant and Our Ministry in the Hill—As we move into the winter months, CPC in The Hill begins to plan its Spring and Summer street BBQs and Park ministries. The cost of these are included in the 2016–17 budget. So, as you can see, it is imperative that we raise the support to cover these (as well as the rest of the budget). As much as we'd like to think the members of CPC in The Hill would carry these costs, it is near impossible at this point. But we start here—and that means our future outreach ministries depend on the kindness of others who will make it possible.

CPC in The Hill is not your usual inner-city, urban church plant—planted in the midst of some of the poorest residents of, not only New Haven, but also of Connecticut. We need to expand our outside support to meet the needs of planting and growing a church in the Hill. If you have any contacts or churches you think might help us, please send me contacts (emails, phone numbers). And, please consider becoming a partner through your own prayers and giving.



Dark red indicate areas highest rates of poverty in New Haven; 43% for the Hill

Our Ministry in the Hill Prayer Requests

- Pray, as we head into the winter months, that we would be able to show kindness and support where we can to the Hill homeless and hurting families.
- Pray that more families would consider joining our weekly worship as we begin meeting in the morning (10 or 10:30, a time hasn't been set) at 158 Davenport Ave.
- Continue to pray for our youth (we have plenty) and that God sends us some dedicated youth workers
- Pray for our Partnership and Support development: we need to identify new circles of influence and potential support—pray God makes this so.

Ways to donate:

- Monthly payments or as one annual sum
- By check to "CPC New Haven"; in memo "Hill/Anderson"; send to CPC New Haven, 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06510
- Pay online at www.anabaino.org (online donations, upper right-hand corner; drop down to Hill Church Plant—Chip Anderson)



Maxine from CPC in The Hill joins our former church family, Trinity Baptist Church, for their ladies' breakfast—we hope to do our own someday.



Yes, it's winter, but we're starting to plan for our Spring and Summer BBQ and Park ministries



A great family sharing our Thanksgiving meal