



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

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News from CPC in the Hill — October 2016



One evening at our weekly Summer BBQ ministry in Trowbridge Square Park, I was asked how big is our church. I replied, *"We are very small right now. Just a small church plant in the Hill. You're looking at almost everyone who comes on Sunday."* I pointed to those serving the food and grilling. *"Of course there are a few more—but what you see is basically our church."* The gentleman raised his eyebrows and said, *"Wow. You're serving lots of people here. This is pretty good. Thank you."* I said you're welcome of course, but added, *"Being so small we still have a good community impact—this [pointing to the crowd we were feeding, about 80 that evening] all from a small group of people that are CPC in The Hill. Imagine what we'll be doing when we're bigger, with more people joining us as a church."* Imagine.

Update on Ministry

As summer now has turned to Fall, we are grateful for all the hard work put into our summer Hill ministries. We had a great week of Summer soccer and arts camp, seeing about 40 children each day. Lots of new families joined us, which gave opportunity to make new local friends and good introductions to CPC in The Hill. Throughout July and August, we trucked in our grill to a nearby park and served hot dogs and hamburgers, along with fruit, salads, and various dishes our good people prepared to a range of 60 to 80 people each Wednesday. This experience is certainly one of our signature events and is well known by many that live in the Hill. Each evening in the park there are many homeless, plenty of teens, and many fathers or mothers with their children. There are also many adults just hanging out. All are invited to the table. I preach. We pray. They eat. And, we spend over two hours talking to people, praying with them, advising them, connecting some to local services, and, as well, making a number of good contacts for our church. We have also seen an increase in our Sunday evening service. Some have come from the park; some are from those we've been developing relationships with over the last year. The extra numbers certainly add to the strength of our singing! Sounds fuller. We are also grateful to John Davis, a local man, who is helping us to mold our music into a style and form more befitting to the Hill. We ended September with a Sidewalk BBQ, open to any anyone in the neighborhood. This was our 3rd such event. We easily served over 100 people. This strengthens our relationship with our neighbors and gives opportunity to help them engage CPC in The Hill.



Update on Prayer Partner Goals

We are beginning to build our prayer support base. Our summer goal was 100 prayer partners. We entered into the Fall with 116 who have joined on to CPC in The Hill Prayer Partners. Our goal now to see 200 prayer partners by springtime 2017. Prayer partners receive daily, specific requests, along with updates on answers to prayer and other praises.

Update on Financial Goals

Our budgeted goal for the 2016-17 year is \$98,456. Along with the anchor church (CPC New Haven) and Mission Anabaino's commitment to planting a church in The Hill and a number of early supporters, \$57,792 has been given or pledged to date (59% of the total), leaving \$40,664 to raise for this year's expenses. We are engaging a number of potential churches for support; extending invitations to family and friends to partner with us; and, will be facilitating a number of home fundraisers to broaden our support base. Lisa and I will be having a fundraiser November 19th at our home in Bridgeport, CT. (Please let us know if you are able to facilitate a small home fundraiser on our behalf among your own family and friends.)

Fundraising Impact on the Hill Church Plant and Our Ministry in The Hill

Typically, raising support for a potential church plant means, without the gifts of others, there is no church plant. CPC in The Hill offers a different challenge: if an individual doesn't give, there is still a church. As the interim Pastor, I am currently 20-hours a week in the Hill, participating in some form of ministry activity. In order to be more effective I need more time in The Hill. I seek to transition from interim to full time pastor. Right now I am tri-vocational (holding down two other part time jobs, along with my Hill ministry). We'd like to see this shift to 2/3 time in The Hill by the end of this year. Without increased support, our Summer Park ministry and Sidewalk BBQs cannot happen. We have also just begun a home Bible study as a means of teaching and outreach—we cannot expend these if I cannot increase my time in The Hill. We believe we have something special—no other church in The Hill engages its community like CPC in The Hill. In order to maintain and then grow this impact, we need outside support. CPC in The Hill is being planted in a very under-resourced community, with many out of work and barely enough to sustain everyday needs. 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.

Our Ministry in The Hill Prayer Requests

- Pray that our core group grows and that newer people would be consistent in worship and Bible study.
- Pray for our youth (we have plenty) and 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.
- Pray that CPC in The Hill's good engagement with our community connects new people to our church and that God uses us to win souls for his glory.

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 anabaino.org (online donation, upper right-hand corner; drop down to Hill Church Plant—Chip Anderson)



Some of our summer Park ministry kids after we gave out school supply bags at our last BBQ



A group shot of some of our Summer Camp ministry kids and our fearless leader, Nigeria