



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

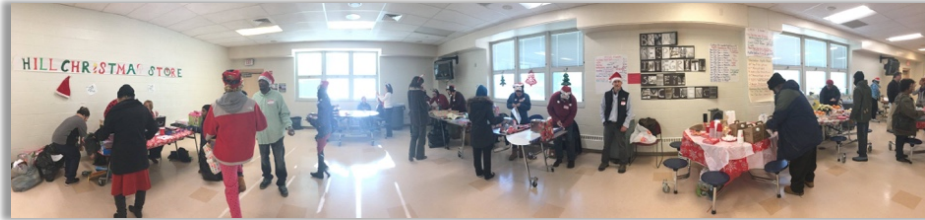
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News from CPC in the Hill — January 2017 Update



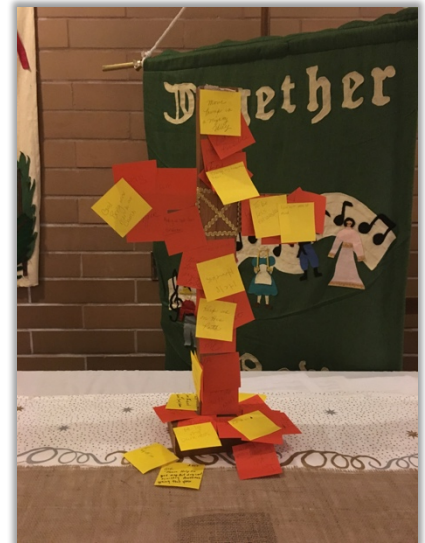
Annual Hill Christmas Store—An amazing day, our annual Hill Christmas Store was an event that is more than “the sum total” of its parts. We were making a video of our store. I was asked if any shoppers would be willing to be interviewed: One of our church neighbors was willing—but she spoke Spanish and only limited

English. Yet, we had a solution already prepared. We had asked one of our newer ladies, who had been slowly getting involved with us, to be a store worker as our Spanish translator for our Hispanic neighbors who came to the store. So, there you had it: Our English-speaking interviewer asking a Hispanic neighbor and store-customer through our CPC in The Hill store worker-translator what she thought of the store experience. Granted, what she answered is important, but it was the scene, that moment, that spoke the grace of God and displayed our desire to empower the people in the Hill.

When I was interviewed, as the pastor of course, I filled in some of the blanks about our store event: “What does this Hill Christmas store mean to you, pastor?” I replied, “This store is a parable of our church’s message of God’s loving on our neighbors and the way we do the store models what we believe about empowering our neighbors and community to flourish.”

Each year, CPC in The Hill partners with our anchor church, CPC New Haven, to offer the Hill a positive and empowering Christmas shopping experience to our members and Hill parents. We offer new merchandise at discounted prices so parents can have the dignity of buying their children a few Christmas presents. And, we offer a small stipend for CPC in The Hill workers “at the store.” This approach empowers parents and Hill workers.

New Year’s Eve Prayer-Watch and Service—Each December 31st, we hold a prayer-watch service to end the year and start the new one, asking God to be with us (10:30pm–1:00am). This year we designed our time as a worship service. As has been our tradition, we nail our sins and struggles to the cross (well, we sticky-note them). We take the time to confess our sins by writing them down and placing them on the cross (the red notes), symbolizing that the cross is enough and that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us ([1 John 1:9](#)). We also write down the things about us we want God to work on in the coming year. And, then, during our prayer time we write down our requests and prayers for 2017 (yellow notes). And, yes, we have food, too! We can envision this as an annual event and a packed house—worshipping our Heavenly Father, praising Him for His Son, king Jesus, and praying that the Holy Spirit would work among us and in The Hill.



Our last food-fellowship downstairs—Starting the first of the year, the large room downstairs at 158 Davenport Ave will be unavailable to us. New tenants will be utilizing the space as offices. Our good people just had to have one more food-event. It just happened to be a surprise birthday celebration for their pastor—me! My birthday fell on a Sunday, in fact our first Sunday meeting for worship at our new time—10:00am.

Starting December 11th, we moved our Sunday worship time to the 10:00am slot. Although we lost two people (who at present cannot come in the morning hour), this is a strategic move for the longer haul. We believe the Sunday morning hour is more typical for the community we are attempting to reach. The building dynamics are changing, but we are looking forward to God blessing our new worship time. May He fill the pews!

Surprise Partnership with Christian Motorcycle Association—During the summer’s “In His Midst” park BBQ ministry, we are often graced with a number of Bikers from the CMA and other local clubs, who join us. They are great at sharing the gospel and praying for people that join us for the evening. I received a call and an email that the Christian Motorcycle Association wanted to supply two families with a full Christmas-style meal and a few gift cards for Christmas presents for the household. We appreciate their helping us love on our community. The families said they were super-blessed. One mother said, “You just don’t know how their blessing us relieved us of some serious household stress.” We, that is, CPC in The Hill, are so very much appreciative of the CMA Bikers for their support *and their gifts*.

Update on Prayer Partner Goals—We ended 2016 with 160 prayer partners. Our goal was to have 200 prayer partners by December 31st. Although missing the mark, we also have a few groups and churches praying for us, so we figure the actual number is closer to 200—if not at 200. We will continue to pursue the 200 mark for those who intentionally join our CPC in The Hill Prayer Partners. If you Facebook, you may 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. Lisa and I appreciate so much our prayer partners. We can’t do this without you!

Update on Financial Goals—We closed out 2016 with \$11,352 pledged or given. Our fiscal year is September 1–August 31 and our budget for the 2016–17 year is \$98,456. We are at 23% (\$11,352 given or pledged) of our personal financial support goal of \$48,456, leaving \$37,104 to raise for this year’s budget. We are grateful for all those who have begun to support us with their kind gifts. We, however, are looking for a few more churches to join us by supporting our church plant and ministry in The Hill.

*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—CPC in The Hill is small, but it has a great impact in our community. Of course, some of this impact has a financial cost. Although such ministry and outreach is minimal in the colder winter months, Spring and Summer are coming and will vastly increase our activities, events, and presence in The Hill. We are praying the budget is met so we can see these ministries fulfilled—just 3 months away!

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 since we have begun meeting in the morning (10:00am) 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)



We had a wonderful Christmas morning worship service this year.



It’s hard to say what’s my favorite part of our worship service, but my time with our children each week is priceless. I am grateful for them.



We are privileged to have a number of Christian Bikers join us at our Summer Park BBQ ministries.