



## Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

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### CPC News from The Hill

Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?  
All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord.  
But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.  
~ Isaiah 66:1-2 ~

Partners and co-laborers in the field:

This past Spring and the turn into the Summer has been very exciting in The Hill. In April we had our second Neighborhood sidewalk BBQ. In May we introduced new members into the congregation—yes, Lisa and I were two of them! At the close of June, we hosted our annual Soccer & Arts Camp. And, as we enter into July, we start our Summer "In His Midst" hot dog & hamburger park ministry. All these activities, along with our weekly worship and mid-week ladies Bible Study, are made possible through partners such as yourself and our anchor church, Christ Presbyterian Church New Haven.

#### ***Neighborhood Sidewalk BBQ (ministry)***

Last Fall we hosted a BBQ at one of our member's home in The Hill, opening up a big BBQ pit and inviting the neighborhood to join us—and they came! In April we hosted another BBQ at the same member's home. We had a nice size crowd from our neighbors who joined us. Five men (I kept count) told me how much they appreciated our church doing this. One of the men had just gotten home from work and mentioned that when he turned down the street (it is a one way—thankfully) he was curious why all the neighbors were gathering at Maxine's. As he pulled into his driveway, he looked up and saw the sidewalk full of people. "This is so good, thank you; no one open's up their yard and puts out food for everyone like this. This is so good for our neighborhood." This event helps us connect with our Hill neighbors—I preach a little, we share the love of Jesus, and people see (and taste) that the Lord is good. Sidewalk BBQs just like these are part of our ministry plan for 2016-2017. The next one will be September 23, 2016. Come join us if you're close by.



#### ***Summer Soccer & Arts Camp***

Each year our anchor church, CPC New Haven, facilitates a Mercy Impact Week of various work projects in the area (including the Hill) and, together with CPC in The Hill, a Soccer & Arts Camp in The Hill. This week allowed our local Hill families (with a number from across town!) to have something for their kids for the first week after school ended. Over 60 children joined us for the week. They did soccer drills and had scrimmages, took pictures and wrote in journals—at each close they sang worship songs and learned Bible stories. This is a vital ministry in the Hill, for once school ends, almost everything is cost prohibitive for our

neighbors and for at least a week—we got their back. We celebrated the week with a BBQ and served both the kids and their parents.

#### ***Summer "In His Midst" Hot Dog & Hamburger Ministry in the Park***

During the Summer, CPC in The Hill brings a grill and homemade dishes, along with fruit, salads, and cookies, each Wednesday evening to a nearby park—and offers a meal to anyone who is there, or walking by, or the neighbors. A wide range of people are there: Families, single moms with their kids, a few dads with kids, too,

teens (plenty of teens), and many people whose lives are broken, hurting, and struggling with addictions. There are a number of homeless as well, for whom this is their only meal for the day—for even a few days. So far (two Wednesdays) we’ve seen 60 to 80 join us each evening throughout the quick two hours. The Isaiah 66 text quoted above is my theme for my park preaching this summer. The good people in the park help me out. I explain the verses, then I lift my arm and point to the sky, and I say: *If God’s throne is in . . . “heaven” (they yell out) and the earth is God’s . . . “footstool” (they announce), then God’s feet are firmly planted in the . . . “Hill” (they shout loudly).* Our ministries in the community seek to show that God cares about The Hill and that our desire is to find ways to help our community to flourish.



One newcomer to our Park BBQ ministry, a 20something in dreads, this past Wed-evening told me, after I introduced myself as Pastor Chip, *“You don’t look like the pastor. You look like someone who belongs to this church.”* I can live with that.

Last evening, I was asked how big is our church (I so dislike this question, but didn’t show it). I said, *“We are very small right now. We are 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 cooking] and then a number of people who always help us and consider this their church, but still, small. We are a church of and in the Hill, trying to do some things about church differently. I am amazed, I said, that being so small we can have such a major community impact—this [pointing to the crowd we were feeding] all from a small group. Imagine what we’ll be doing when we’re bigger, with more people joining us as a church. Imagine.”*

### ***Highlights of Ministry Plans for 2016-2017 (Sep-Aug)***

Every summer our anchor church session requests a ministry plan from all its staff and church planters. We will seek to establish one home Bible study in one of our member’s homes—so we can reach a wider circle of people, helping them to engage the Word and Jesus in a more informal setting. We plan to start a second one in the Spring of ’17. We will design quarterly Neighborhood Sidewalk BBQs or events to demonstrate CPC in The Hill’s commitment and love for our community, for outreach and evangelism. Later this summer, we are starting a youth choir. (No, I will not be leading this! We have someone who has some experience doing this who’ll lead up this ministry.) And, finally, we’ll be working on some community development ideas, particularly with job search and job readiness (all just in the development and planning stage at this point).



### ***Join us and please pray . . .***

- As we continue our summer “In His Midst” park meal ministry, for good contacts among the people and that their hearts would be open to Jesus (and of course to join us in our worship and community service)
- For our new home Bible study that starts in the Fall and the establishment of another in the Spring
- For our continued connection to our community and the lives of our neighbors, and for our community development plans
- And for our fundraising efforts as we seek to raise all the expenses of our ministry in The Hill. We are at 10% of needed funds.

In this together, co-workers in The Hill,

Pastor Chip & Lisa

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Ways to donate to our church and ministry in The Hill:

- Monthly payments or as one annual sum
- By check, made out to “CPC New Haven”; “Hill/Anderson” in memo; send to CPC New Haven, 135 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06510
- Pay online at [anabaino.org](http://anabaino.org) (online donation, upper right-hand corner; drop down to Hill Church Plant—Chip Anderson)