

## Brief History of Hillsboro Presbyterian Church (last update Jan-2017)

### 1967 - 2013

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church was chartered 19-Jun-1967 with 43 members by Portland Presbytery (now called Cascade). This association of churches purchased the land and called Rev. Robert Gruwell to be the organizing pastor.

After Rev. Gruwell, Rick Hull served as Stated Supply, the Rev. Doug McMurray was called (serving 1975-1984). During Doug's tenure he self-published two books, Bread and Food Groups which taught the basics of the faith and helped develop HPC members as disciples.

In 1975, HPC called the Rev. Dick Morgan as Associate Pastor and honored him as Pastor Emeritus upon his retirement in 1985. The church parsonage is named Morgan House to honor Dick and his wife Mary. Dick died in 1999, Mary in 2006. The house is not currently in use but updates are planned in the future.

HPC called the Rev. Michael McCall to be Pastor (1986-2013). In his 27 years, HPC has grown closer to the Lord, closer to one another, and reached out to the Hillsboro community in service and witness. On August 14, 1991, the church facility was destroyed by fire. Many miracles or "God things" surrounded that event. After 2 years of services at Poynter Junior High School, HPC dedicated its new facility to the Glory of God, April 4, 1993 (Luis Palau preaching). HPC voted to stay at its current location to serve the local community. The congregation worked together to plan and design the new building which is twice the size of the former facility. During construction, HPC members wrote scriptures on the framing/walls. The building is also used for multiple meetings during the week, providing space for both church and community functions, including a daily Montessori school.

Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry have been a long standing focus at HPC. Our part-time Children's Ministry Director, Jennifer McLin, provides oversight in helping us minister to children and families. Our church building houses a Montessori preschool, started in 1999. Rich Jones (now Pastor of Calvary Chapel), Paul Sellman, Taun Allman, Dan Hochalter, Dan Abrahamson, Christian Guidry, and now Carly Powne are among the Youth Directors/Pastors with whom HPC has been blessed. A native of Hillsboro and of HPC, Carly Powne served full-time igniting a passion in our young people for Jesus and his service. After serving 8 years, Carly left HPC, called to expand her ministry to youth and missions at Northern Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas.

HPC has a wonderful music program and numerous groups where HPCers gather each week. Our organist provides music for hymns and our Praise Band plays more contemporary Praise music. We have talented musicians, singers, choir, and actors providing us with a variety of venues for all ages.

Another major focus for HPC are those with developmental disabilities. Tuesday's Treasures was started at HPC by our own Steve Ristow and has grown to include eight (8) churches. This ministry also started Quiet Waters Outreach and now includes two Respite houses, Martha's Place and Selah West, professionally staffed to provide weekend 'get-always' for clients.

We are committed to missions financially and personally. Most recently, our members have led the way in staffing the local homeless shelter (SOS), work projects for Upward Bound and Habitat for Humanity. Several HPC members have been called to work in Africa, Gautier Mississippi (Katrina Relief), and Youth missions in Mexico, Washington, Idaho and Tennessee, as well as the local Food Bank and in downtown Portland. Our building also hosts AA meetings and Kids Turn, a Family Law Education Program in Washington County.

Within the past two years we expanded and updated our children's play area, added a nearby Memorial Garden with seating, and created and maintain a community garden which donated ~1000 lbs. of produce to the local Food Bank.

We are a church which considers itself 'family'....we don't always agree but we stick together, praying for God's guidance and direction.

### 2014 to present (Jan-2017)

30-Dec-2013 Pastor Michael McCall Resigned.

15-Jun-2014 David Lee begins his term as Interim Pastor.

31-May-2015 David Lee ends his term as Interim Pastor.

Sep-2015 Mission Study approved by Presbytery. Mission study can be seen by clicking [HERE](#).

01-Nov-2015 Laurel Neal begins her term as bridge Pastor.

05-Dec-2015 Designated Pastor Search Committee Formed

08-Feb-2016 started reviewing received Pastor Information Forms.

Jun-2016 Called Rev Dr. Robert Stebe As Designated Pastor.

04-Aug-2016 Rev Dr. Robert Stebe begins his term as Designated Pastor.

16-Sep-2018 Rev Dr. Robert Stebe permanently Installed as Pastor.