All things bright and beautiful...
THE CHRISTIAN ALPHABET

Although things are not perfect
Because of trial and pain
Continue in thanksgiving
Do not begin to blame
Even when the times are hard
Fierce winds are bound to blow
God is forever able
Hold on to what you know
Imagine life without His love
Joy would cease to be
Keep thanking Him for all the things
Love imparts to thee
Move out of “Camp Complaining”
No weapon that is known
On earth can yield the power
Praise can do alone.
Quit looking at the future
Redeem the time at hand
Start every day with worship
To “thank” is a command.
Until we see Him coming
Victorious in the sky
We’ll run the race with gratitude
eXalting God most high.
Yes, there will be good times and yes some will be bad, but
Zion waits in glory, where none are ever sad!
**O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom has thou made them all: the earth is full of your riches.**

*Psalm 104:24*

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**FROM THE EDITORS**

We anticipate the upcoming warm season with all the events to come. Highlighting the Hillcrest family photos found throughout this issue, it is needless to say that we look forward to the moments to be captured this summer. Continue to share and connect with us online!

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!

The Hillcrest Harbinger Editorial Team

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**STAY CONNECTED**  
WWW.HILLCRESTDISCIPLESTO.COM

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**THANK YOU TO THIS ISSUE’S CONTRIBUTORS**  
CAROLYN CARRUTHERS, MICHELLE CHONG, RAE CONDIE, SHEMA DIZON, RICHELLE HIMAYA, SARAH HIMAYA, GRACE INGAL, JOE ONG, PATTY GAIL PEKER, HUBERT Reece, VIVIENNE ROBINSON

**COVER PHOTO** by GRACE INGAL, 2012
"VISIONING"—you will hear this term around the church. An ad hoc Committee is looking into the future of Hillcrest Church. They will need your support, inspiration and prayers from the entire congregation as they pursue what the future will hold for us.

Summer is creeping upon us as the school year closes. We congratulate all the students that have graduated from grade school, high school, college and university. Best Wishes for your future plans in the coming year. We are very proud of all of you!!!!

Don’t forget?? The Tree of Life is your opportunity to commemorate a birthday, anniversary, birth, life or any special occasion. This is a visible symbol of your dedication to an event.

Mark your calendar for the following weeks—Strawberry Tea Party and the Hillcrest Family Picnic are good occasions to bring your friends to church with you.

The summer will see some of the congregation in Edmonton, Alberta—especially at 2012 Encounter for our young adults. I am sure this will be an inspirational event for all.

Wishing everyone a happy, restful and safe summer in all your travels.

Remember - "All things work together for good to those who love God"

Sincerely,
Carolyn Carruthers
Chairperson
The Tree of Life

Dedicated on Sunday, May 15, 2011

The “Tree of Life” located in the north transept of the Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is now growing with the names of our loved ones. This tree was created as a visible symbol of the unity of the Hillcrest Church family. It reflects the uniqueness of our congregation, coming as we are from different parts of the world, and has been placed there to commemorate: Memorials, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Accomplishments and Special Occasions.

We now invite you to become a part of this worthwhile endeavor which will serve to strengthen our work in this community and the many missions we support around the world. Each leaf can be designated and will be displayed with the name(s) and date(s) of special people in our lives, in connection with any one of the above-mentioned occasions. We hope the “Tree” will become a source of inspiration for the growth of God’s church in this corner of the world, and serve as a constant reminder of why we are here.

For more information and participation forms, contact Joe Ong.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to baby Makeilla Sade de los Trinos, born on June 7th, 2012 – a daughter for James and Magelle, and a sister for Jaron.

The Himaya family would like to thank the Hillcrest family for their thoughts and prayers during the loss of Virginia’s father, Eliseo Calantog and nephew, Gabriel Loyola. It has been of comfort knowing that your love and support was with us during this time of grief. Also, a special appreciation to Rev. Dr. Jose Sotto for leading a memorial service in the Philippines.

Vivienne Robinson and her siblings and family members would like to thank the members of the Hillcrest Family for their cards, love and support during their time of grief. It was and is deeply appreciated.

THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers.

THOSE WHO ARE RECOVERING
Claudio Villanueva (Rudy Villanueva’s father), Eva Villanueva, Concordia Santiago (Mario Santiago’s Mother)

THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND
Olga Blackwood, June Davidson, Marjorie Dawkins, Enid Grant, Jean and Ron Hambleton, Margaret Miller, Don Starratt, Jeanne Weeks

MEMBERS WITH ONGOING CONCERNS
Wondez East, Carmen Hewitt and family, Lila Hulton and her daughter Marlee, Precy Mandac, Carl Morris, Evelyn Morris, Vivienne Robinson, Fe Veneracion

FRIENDS AND RELATIVES
Florida Clemente (mother of Francisco and Zeny Ingal), Rodrigo Clemente Jr. (brother of Gloria Francisco and Zeny Ingal), Judy Lintz and family (Ann Stainton’s cousin, Rev. Tom and Dianne Rutherford, Benjamin Samonte (Mariebel Santiago’s father), Gladis Smith (friend of Cesar Bonilla, Judith Tomlinson, Dr. Isagani de los Trinos (brother of Minda Osias, Elma Loterte, Eva Villanueva, Susan Dizon and James de los Trinos)

CONDOLENCES
Sher and Robert Miller and family on the passing of Sher’s uncle, Archie Butch.
David, Lona and Levy Warrack and neighbours on the passing of Levy’s best friend, Brandon Duda.
Juliet Nelson (nee Campbell) on the passing of her mother, Evelyn Campbell on May 13.
Valerie Johnson on the passing of her mother, Mabel Edwards Dill on April 27 in Bermuda.
Elaine Lyons on the passing of her close friend, Anna Paul.
Vivienne Robinson on the passing of her mother, Sylvia Robinson.
Family and friends of Helen Stainton.

For pastoral concerns, please phone (416) 654-0311.
For emergencies, please phone (416) 433-7997.
CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2012

MICHELLE CHONG
Ursula Franklin Academy
Ontario Secondary School Diploma

I have finally reached the end of my 4 years within high school, I have been anticipating it for some time. This September I will be attending George Brown College for its collaborative program with Ryerson University. I will be enrolling in a 4 year nursing program! I'm extremely excited to be finished high school and finally moving on up to bigger things, but I also will miss it dearly.

SHEMA AUBREY DIZON
Ryerson University
Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education, Jillian Logel Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient 2011-2012, Faculty of Community Services Dean's List (GPA 3.8), Early Childhood Education Course Union, Communications Representative 2010-2011. Pursuing a Bachelor of Education at Queen's University in Kingston - September 2012

Praise be to God for being my provider of guidance throughout my undergraduate degree at Ryerson. I want to thank my parents, and my sister, for being constantly supportive of my educational endeavours. And to you my Hillcrest family for all the prayers for the youth of Hillcrest in their lives as hardworking students. I am excited to continue my studies in education at Queen's University in September. God Bless.

RICHELLE HOPE C. HIMAYA
University of Toronto Scarborough
Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Art History and Studio

I am grateful for having the opportunity to pursue my study and practice of fine art at the University of Toronto Scarborough, and blessed for constantly being in the presence of the love and support of my family and friends. It has been an amazing experience and I look forward to fulfilling the destiny God has planned for me. Thank-you Hillcrest for being a part of my foundation.
IN MEMORIAM

In January of this year we lost two longtime members of Hillcrest. Surprisingly, they had both retired to the same area in Jamaica.

*Sylvia Robinson*

Sylvia Robinson, mother of Vivienne Robinson who is also a member here, died quite suddenly and unexpectedly on January 2nd. After retiring from Toronto Western Hospital, she would usually spend the time from late spring to early fall in Toronto and the rest of the time in Sunvalley, St. Thomas, Jamaica.

She was very fond of her Hillcrest family, had lots of fun when she was in Toronto and loved to entertain. There was a standing invitation for anyone from Hillcrest coming to Jamaica to come and visit and spend some time with her.

She spent her time in Jamaica “pottering” around her Garden and volunteering in a number of areas, usually dealing with children. She will be sorely missed, not only by her four sons, two daughters and eight grandchildren but by people in the area where she settled and who affectionately called her “Miss Rob”.

*James Elliston*

James Elliston died in Albion, St. Thomas, Jamaica on January 29th. He had been ill for a while and had been unable to travel for a number of years. Some members of Hillcrest remember when he had a stroke in the 1990’s and battled back to be able to read the scripture lessons one Sunday morning. He is survived by his wife Thelma Elliston, also a member of Hillcrest, children and grandchildren who live in Toronto and other relatives in Jamaica.

THE GENERS PRAYER LETTER MARCH-APRIL 2012

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so WALK IN HIM, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. -Colossians 2:6-7

Dear Ministry Partners at Hillcrest Christian Church,

Jesus Christ calls himself “the way” (Jn 14:6). Followers of Christ were those who belonged to the Way. Christian faith is thus a Christian’s walk, being on the road or the pathway of Christ leading to the Father. The path of Christ meant seeing things through Christ’s perspective (Col. 3:1-2), Christ being our life (3:4). The road may be clear or rough, but as long as it is the path of Christ, it remains a blessed life (Jn 10:10). The opposite of being in the Way meant wandering or being stuck in the mud, the miry clay or the pit, or even a deathly existence (Jn 3:17).

April marks the first year of my term as President of the Asian Theological Seminary (ATS). God be praised for the Lord’s goodness and greatness shown to me and my family, and the
ATS! Rough road or smooth paths, Caroline and I give thanks to our Lord for keeping us on the path of life and joy, the path of Christ. I vividly remember how April 2011 was a very difficult month for the Seminary but God came through for us in a mighty way. April 2012 is thus meaning-ful for me and my family, for it shows how God can make a turn-around in our lives when we cast our cares on Him.

Please join with us in giving thanks and praying with us for the following:

1. Our children – Mia, Chelsea, and Emil – just finished the school year last March. To God be the glory! By God’s grace, all three did very well in school. Just to be able to finish another school year is big accomplishment for parents like us.
2. For many, many answered prayers for the needs of Asian Theological Seminary (ATS). God be praised for the good results of changes that were implemented during his first year. Praise God too for the thirty two whom we have graduated last March 30th. Nine of them were international students.
3. Thank God too for the success of the Theological Forum on Christian Spirituality last February. Plenary speakers included Drs. John Goldingay (Fuller Seminary) and Simon Chan (Trinity Theological College, Singapore). Five hundred attended and were blessed by the conference.
4. Pray with us for continuing wisdom, spiritual strength and God’s favor for Tim as he continues to lead Asian Theological Seminary. One strategic initiative ATS is pursuing concerns Digital Distance or Online Learning. May God’s hand of blessing rest on this project.
5. We (Caroline and Tim) hope to begin a prayer group to minister to the owners of the school (Pail and Shovel Integrated School) where Chelsea and Emil are students. We are praying that the school owners will continue to be open to the Gospel and will make a decision for Christ.
6. For good health for everyone and God’s provision for the kids’ tuition fees for the new school year. School starts in June.

May the Lord keep us on the path of Christ, smooth or rough the road may be. May God grant us continuing spiritual confidence as we serve His name.

Always grateful for your prayers and support,
Serving Christ in the Philippines,
The Geners (Tim, Caroline, Mia, Chelsea, and Emil)
HILLCREST FAMILY PHOTOS

EASTER

CHECKING OUT THE SPOILS FROM THE EASTER EGG HUNT

SCENES FROM HOSTING THE RECENT ONTARIO DISCIPLE WOMEN’S SPRING RALLY AT MAPLETON

CELEBRATING REV. DIANE STEFFER’S 75TH BIRTHDAY
SUNDAY SCHOOL IN SESSION

MOTHERS’ DAY

ATTENDING THE DISCIPLES D.A.R.E. ORIENTATION IN GUELPH

WELCOME SCRUGGS FAMILY

AIDA CELEBRATES HER 65TH BIRTHDAY

REV. JEN GARBIN PREACHING

HAPPY PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY
SPRING RALLY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2012

We hosted the annual Spring Rally of the Ontario Disciples Women, but the venue for the event was at the Mapleton Church of Christ, in Mapleton. The Keynoters were our very own Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer and Rev. Diane Steffer, who led both the Bible Study and a Workshop in two parts. The Theme for the day was “Feed My Sheep” and was the battle cry for last year’s Week of Compassion effort by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada and the United States. The Workshop was based on the byline “Developing a Passion for Stewardship.” It was very well supported. Those who came for the “renewing of their minds, the renewing of their spirits, and for the making of new friends and best of all for the fellowship”, were greatly rewarded.

STRAWBERRY TEA PARTY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2012

Last year we had a successful joint fundraising effort with the Christian Education Committee and this year we will be doing the same. Plans are afoot and tickets will be going on sale. There will be lots of prizes and surprises and of course the delicious fare that will be provided. Come out and support the efforts, which are for very worthy causes.

BIBLE STUDY

The worship and bible study portion of our activities continues.

PICNIC IN THE PARLOUR

Our annual “picnic in the parlour” serves as the start of our summer hiatus for the months of July and August, and we will reconvene in September.

Have a wonderful safe and happy summer while you soak up some sunshine.

Vivienne Robinson  
President
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MEDICINE KIT

It has been a while since we have sent a Medicine Kit and will now be remedying that lapse. We are well aware of the high cost of medicine these days and have decided that it would be more cost effective if the Health and Wellness Committee bought in bulk the items we need to send for the kit. That way we can buy them at a much lower cost, than getting individual donations of the medicines.

To that end, we are now asking for monetary donations to the Medicine Kit. Your support is greatly appreciated. Your donation can be made by placing it in the offering plate in an envelope marked Health and Wellness or Medicine Kit.

As a way to raise money to help towards the Medicine Kit, the Health and Wellness Committee usually holds a walkathon among other things. We will be having one again this year and will be looking for volunteers and sponsors.

The sponsorship list will be in the parlour this summer and Walkers and Sponsors will be able to sign up. I am sure that once again where we walk will be of great interest historically and environmentally. MORE TO COME.

Thank you.

AN “EVERYDAY LANGUAGE” PRAYER

O Lord, take up the slack in me. There is so much of me that loosely dangles without purpose. Blow away the feathers in my head. Get me off this binge of insensitivity. Never let me get so old that I can’t feel growing pains or stay so young that somebody else shoulders my responsibility. Shake the starch out of my mind and put in my backbone. Erase the wings from my tongue and Hitch them to my actions. AMEN.

From “Prayers to Pray Without Really Trying”
JUNE 3 | MINISTERIAL TEAM
It is time we reflect on the support, enthusiasm and guidance we receive from the “team”. They are with us in times of joy and sorrow. We are very fortunate to be working with them as we achieve our goals—in thy name.

JUNE 10 | FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY
Members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) get together in each area every year. We remember our roots and pray for growth of our churches as we work together in thy name.

JUNE 17 | FATHER’S DAY
Let us give thanks for our Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers and the many men who influence our lives. We show our appreciation for the love and devotion they extend to us. May God bless and care for them.

JUNE 24 | ACHIEVEMENT DAY
We remember the youth as they complete their school year. Congratulations to all. We pray for those who will continue for advanced education or a job in the future. Our blessings are with them always—Amen.

JULY 1 | CANADA DAY
Pray for our Country and Leaders that we may uphold and be truly thankful for the Freedom and Democracy afforded us in this land of plenty and peace.

JULY 8 | PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Pray for the children and young people during this Summer Break, while they attend Camps, hold Summer Jobs etc., that they will have time to relax and refresh themselves and enjoy the time with family and the beauty of the summer.

JULY 15 | THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
The women of the church are an important pillar in its structure. With so many varied functions and so much to do, we pray that they find time and opportunities to relax, refuel and reenergize and that they receive spiritual guidance to be able to fully serve as they would wish.

JULY 22 | GLOBAL MISSIONS
More and more we hear of churches and Christians around the world being under attack and in danger for their lives simply for religion’s sake. We pray for the missionaries who are in danger and for the people to whom they wish to bring the news of God’s love and peace.

JULY 29 | MEN OF THE CHURCH
For the men of the church who are called upon to carry out their mandates to serve the church in different capacities. Let us pray that God will continue to bless their efforts as they share their talents in good works.

AUGUST 5 | CIVIC HOLIDAY
Today the buzz is on honoring significant people in the history of the Province of Ontario. We also remember our passed leading heads and corner stones of our church and pray that our youth recognizes and learns from those past legacy of dedication to develop their own faith and commitment to our congregation.

AUGUST 12 | HILLCREST SUNDAY SCHOOL
As a church family it is our privilege and responsibility to nurture the minds of our children and guide them to the truth and teaching of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us pray that our efforts and the lessons passed on to them will be understood, received and accepted by their youthful minds.

AUGUST 19 | MAKING OUR CITY SAFE
As a body of faith and strong believers, let us pray for the young people in our city, to see the need for peace and love in Christ, so our city will be a safe place for everyone.

AUGUST 26 | SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
Our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has to be sustained and nurtured continuously. Let us pray that each day we embrace the throne of our Lord with every effort to be stronger in our relationship with Him.
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2012

June 3
Louise Hart, preaching
Filipino Bible Study

June 5
Board of Elders meeting

June 9
InterChurch Health Ministries education Day & AGM

June 10
Rev. Jennifer Garbin, preaching

June 12
Administrative Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

June 17
Rev. Jane Pekar, preaching

June 24
Rev. Fred Dizon, preaching
CEC/CWF Tea Party

JULY 2012

July 1
Worship Through Music, Mr. Leslie Barcza

July 8
Mr. Curtis Ennis, preaching
Hillcrest Family picnic

July 15
Mr. Lane Scruggs, preaching

July 22
Rev. Fred Dizon, preaching
Blood Pressure Clinic

July 29
Rev. Fred Dizon, preaching

AUGUST 2012

August 5
Mr. Curtis Ennis, preaching

August 5-12
Encounter in Edmonton, Alberta

August 9-12
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Canada biennial convention will be held at Edmonton, Alberta

August 12
Rev. Fred Dizon, preaching

August 19
Rev. Fred Dizon, preaching
Blood Pressure Clinic

August 26
Rev. Jane Pekar, preaching

*All dates are subject to change. Please check the Sunday Order of Worship for the latest updates.*
THE HILLCREST HARBINGER

Editorial Team: Rev. Dr. Robert Steffer and Richelle Himaya
Head of Distribution: Amando Osias
The email address they can be reached at is thehillcrestharbinger@gmail.com.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
As members of the Hillcrest family, we want to hear from you! After all, this is YOUR HARBINGER! Share your special news, articles, photographs, dates to remember, prayer concerns, etc. and send it to thehillcrestharbinger@gmail.com. We’d love to include it into the next September - November 2012 Quarterly issue.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE: AUGUST 1ST, 2012
Any late submissions will be included in the December - February 2013 issue.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS
Let us know how you feel. All comments and concerns will be taken into consideration to make The Hillcrest Harbinger a better experience for all its readers.

GET INVOLVED
1. Submit content
2. Be part of the team

We are always looking for photographers to capture Hillcrest’s special moments. If you’re interested in helping with the layout, please don’t be shy, we want to see your creativity! If you’re interested in lending a helping hand, you can be part of printing and distribution. Just forward an email to thehillcrestharbinger@gmail.com to express any of your interests.

Note: Volunteer hours and reference letters will be given to any high school student/contributor participating in the production of The Hillcrest Harbinger.

MINISTERIAL TEAM

Rev. Fred Dizon, Interim Part-time Minister
Rev. Dr. Robert and Diane Steffer, Auxiliary Ministers
Ann Stainton, Pastoral Assistant/Parish Nurse

The phone number they can be reached at is (416) 654-0311.

WEBSITE

Visit the Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) website for the latest updates and multimedia links at www.HillcrestDisciplesTO.com