



News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 January 2017

PASTOR'S PONDERING

Out with the old. In with the new.

The recurring theme of a New Year sounds wonderful for the new. But, how does it resonate with the old? When I was younger, new things were adventurous and exciting. The novelty of things new would captivate my head and heart. Each new happening was celebrated and rejoiced in.

Now that I am older, new things sometime feel like a nuisance. I tend to relish the tried and true of yesterday. Older experiences provide wonderful memories and a wealth of wisdom. I confess that I find myself cherishing the old and having mixed reactions to that which is innovative.

Out with the old seems less than attractive when you know that you are in your third trimester of life. Nonetheless, there is good news to be found in things fresh! When we enter into the new, that which is old changes. Our ability to hold on to the past diminishes. Our memories become somewhat blurred. Our favorites things become challenged with better opportunities.

The new brings renewed energy. The new brings restoration. The new brings possibility. The new brings an invitation to find new directions. The new brings the ability to change course. The new has a way of providing a clean slate.

When we are in touch with our mortality and our finite limitations, beginnings are evidence that the One who is God makes all things new. God alone opens the future of each tomorrow. God alone is the creator of all things new. God alone resigns over the realm where love is born afresh day in and day out. This is the message that Jesus brought to the world. Repent! Change. Have a do-over. Take a mulligan. The future is wide open. For the Kingdom of God is at hand.

So, as we reach this New Year and turn the page to another chapter, let us remember the days of old. Let us celebrate them with the nostalgia they deserve. But, let us also welcome the new. Let us know in all certainty that the errors of the past are in the past. Let us live in all confidence that the past has no power over us. Let us with all hope venture beyond what once was but is no more. Let us dream with all awe and wonder. And, let us with every fiber of our being love one another and all of God's creation.

For the old that is gone is the attempts that failed. The old that is gone is the mistakes that we made. The old that is gone is the wrong we have done. The old that is gone is the choices that settled for less than best. Hmmm! I suppose out with the old and in with the new is not that bad, after all. What do you think?

Blessings abound in each new year,

Pastor Mary

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, December 12th, 2017 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

Secretary’s Report: Minutes from the November Consistory meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: November bank statements were not available, so no report was available for the monthly meeting. General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for October 2017.

Operating Fund	October 2017	2017 YTD	October 2016	2016 YTD
Income	\$11,295.26	\$105,447.60	\$12,262.58	\$99,377.98
Expenses	\$9,848.75	\$122,522.79	\$4,984.96	\$112,245.56
Income vs. Expenses	\$1,446.51	(\$17,075.19)	\$7,277.62	(\$12,867.58)

- Benevolence received for October was \$316.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,776.00

Reports from the various committees were reviewed. Their activities can be seen elsewhere in this newsletter.

Communion will be celebrated on January 7th.

We have scheduled our Annual Congregational Meeting for February 25th. As in years past, we will have this meeting during worship service. We hope you will join us as we take some time to reflect on 2017 as well as share our plans and goals for 2018.

A congregational meeting was held on December 10th, and the proposed budget for 2018 was voted on and approved. If you were not able to attend the meeting and would like a copy of the budget there are still a few copies in the Narthex. Please feel free to pick one up, and if you have any questions about the budget please see any consistory member.

We are still working on ironing out some of the details with online giving, but anticipate that we will have a program up and running sometime in the beginning of the year.

We are looking into some of the available options for repairing or replacing the entry doors to the church and Sunday school, and will hopefully have some information to present to you in the near future. We also are reaching out to some other local churches that have recently completed similar projects to get some ideas and feedback on their experiences.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for January will be provided by Terry Shane and Mark Hile. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Anita Brady, Bob Fleming, Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, David Mutter, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Matt Weller, and Pastor Mary Lake-Dillensnyder.



News from the Women’s Guild

On Tuesday December 5th we had our annual Christmas dinner at Giovanni’s and we all had a fun time. We played a Christmas game with cookies, and then got to take home cookies that landed in front of us. We packed gift bags for 10 shut in’s. Thank you to all the people that purchased candles for our fundraiser. We will be able to do lots of charity work with the profits. God Bless! Our next meeting is January 2nd 2018.

Sunday School News

Why not start 2018 with a New Year's Resolution...to join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 am. There is always room for you!

The annual Souper Bowl Sunday soup fellowship will be February 4...warm up the crock pots and pick out your favorite soup recipe. More details will be in the Sunday bulletins!

Choir Notes

Thank you to all the participants in the presentation of the Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve. Services. The help and support for these services is very much appreciated. God Bless!



Wed. January 3-----	Sr. Choir	7:00 PM
Wed. January 10-----	Sr. Choir	7:00 PM
Wed. January 17-----	Sr. Choir	7:00 PM
Wed. January 24-----	Sr. Choir	7:00 PM
Wed. January 31-----	Sr. Choir	7:00 PM



Elmer Miller
Organist/Music Director
610-367-5613 or e-mail elmerhm@dejazzd.com

Greetings from the Park Committee

Upcoming events:

- 1) We will be holding a reorganizational meeting sometime early February, please come out and help us schedule our work projects for 2018. Date to be announced.
- 2) We will be demolishing the old dilapidated shed next to the barn one work day this winter. Date to be determined.
- 3) Our workdays are scheduled every second Saturday of the month weather permitting. We normally meet at the Creek Side Diner for breakfast by 7:00 AM or meeting at the church parking lot about 8:00 AM.
- 4) Please do not hesitate to contact the Park Committee for any questions you have or to double check if a work day is canceled.

On behalf of the Park Committee we would like to thank everyone for your support this past year.

President: Mark Hile 610-367-6572, Secretary: Terry Shane 610-367-7938, Treasurer: Joel Weller 610-473-2888, Bob Shakespeare, Eileen Fisher, Richard Kemp, Dale Fronheiser, Jan Fisher, Ray Kochey, Dennis Weller, Dave Mutter, Elmer Miller, Matt Weller

CEMETERY BOARD NEWS

The next Cemetery Board Meeting is on Tues., Jan. 16th at 7:30 PM at St. John Hill UCC. We will be auditing the books at 6:30 PM before the meeting.

Announcements from the Hill

CHRISTMAS DE-DECORATING



Following worship on Sunday, January 7th we will take down the Christmas decorations in the church and Sunday School. If you are able, please stay for a short time to help de-decorate. Many hands make light work,

Caroling to Rev. Rogers

Following de-decorating on January 7 we will be carpooling to visit and carol to Rev. Jim Rogers. We will stop at a restaurant along the way to eat lunch. Hope you can join us!

GROCERY CARDS

Don't forget grocery cards for Giant, Redner's and Weis Markets are available for purchase. They may be used towards groceries, gas and pharmacy purchases and make terrific gifts! We receive 5% for every card you purchase which will be used to support our Church Missions program. See Connie Hile to purchase your cards today!

Friendly's Fundraiser

Tuesday, January 23 join Hill Church Scout Troop #518 at Friendly's in Pottstown. If you dine anytime between 5-9 pm, they will receive a portion of your check to support their activities and projects.



ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The 2018 sign up charts for "Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship" are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$30 for flowers and \$15 for bulletins. As always, we greatly appreciate and need your stewardship. When signing up, please include with your name, how you would like the "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of" to appear in the bulletin. Thank you!

Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for Operation Backpack during the month of January. Below is a list of items needed to fill the backpacks each week. They request that each item be "single serve" if it is within a multi or larger pack. Thank you in advance for your support of this project! If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

note: items with (*) are in most need

- *Tuna To-Go
- *Complete Meals (like Hormel)
- *Ready to eat Soup (must have a "pop-top")
- *Mac and Cheese
- Spaghettios/Beef Ravioli
- Fruit Cups / Applesauce
- Granola / Fruit Bars
- Pop-Tarts
- Cereal
- Non-refrigerated Milk
- Variety Snack Packs
- Fruit Snacks
- Water
- Juice Boxes
- Pudding (pre-made cups)

INCLEMENT WEATHER
AND
SUNDAY WORSHIP

In the event of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, announcements regarding the Hill Church Sunday schedule will be given in the following ways:



Church website: <http://www.stjohnhillucc.org>
Church telephone answering machine: 610-367-8114
WFMZ TV Storm Center – Broadcast Channel 69
(May be a different channel on your system)



Also, please keep in mind that power outages may affect our ability to use certain of the above resources, and the ability of some members to have access to those outlets. So we encourage church members to be in touch with one another to help spread the word about possible cancellations and changes. Thank you.

Aluminum Can Collection

The youth group continues to collect and recycle aluminum cans. You can put your bags of cans through the side window of the barn at the church that is facing the road any time you have a full bag. We use the money to support our many activities and also to help sponsor a child in the Philippines.

Fundraiser



Contact our sexton, Charles Anhalt, for discounted in-house tile and carpet cleaning. 20% of all proceeds received will be donated to our church in honor of you. Contact Charles at 484-333-1424.

Church Contact Information

Rev. Mary Lake-Dillensnyder - Pastor

Rev. Jim Rogers – Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/
Organist

Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary



Mr. Charles Anhalt - Sexton

Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer

Church Telephone: 610-367-8114

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org



JANUARY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7 pm Women's Guild Meeting	3 7 pm Sr. Choir	4	5	6
7 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion De-Decorating after Worship Visit/Carol to Rev. Rogers	8 9 am Small Group Bible Study 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	9 7 pm Consistory Meeting	10 7 pm Sr. Choir	11	12	13 7 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Work Day
14 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	15	16 6:30 pm Cemetery Board Audit 7:30 pm Cemetery Board Meeting	17 7 pm Sr. Choir	18	19	20
21 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Joyful Noise Offering NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 9 am Small Group Bible Study	23 5-9 pm Scout's Fundraiser at Friendly's	24 7 pm Sr. Choir	25	26	27
28 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	29 7 pm Worship Team Meeting	30	31 7 pm Sr. Choir			