



News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 January 2019

• FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

A Year of Hope

“We have this hope, a sure and certain anchor of the soul”
- Hebrews 6:19

The word *hope* has become a weak word in the English language, meaning *wishful thinking*, as in “I hope we don’t get a lot of snow this winter.” The word hope as used in the Bible, is a much stronger word. Sometimes I think it should be translated *confidence*. We are confident that God will be with us in this new year.

Hope is described as an anchor. In the midst of all the storms of life, hope keeps us from being tossed to and fro. Because we know that God will be with us, these troubles will not overwhelm us.

We live in troubling times in our country and in the world. Our faith gives us *confidence* that God will be at work. Not everything that happens is God’s will. But in the midst of all that happens, God will give us strength and sustain us. Whatever storms may be blowing in our personal lives, we have confidence that God will see us through.

In 2019 Hill Church will probably be calling a new pastor. Our congregation will go through more adjustments and changes. We approach this new year - we approach changes - with *confidence* that God is here, alive and at work, in our lives and in our congregation. 2019 will be a year of Biblical *hope*.

Chuck Maxfield

CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Tuesday, December 11th, 2018 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: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for November 2018.

Operating Fund	November 2018	2018 YTD	November 2017	2017 YTD
Income	\$11,759.55	\$111,549.42	\$12,513.35	\$117,960.95
Expenses	\$7,017.76	\$119,093.51	\$7,799.47	\$130,322.26
Income vs. Expenses	\$4,741.79	(\$7,544.09)	\$4,713.88	(\$12,361.31)

• Benevolence received for November was \$201.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,710.00

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

Communion will be celebrated on January 6th.

We have met with P&K Heating and Cooling to finalize the details of the air conditioning installation, and they will begin work in January 2019.

Last month we reported that Clarence Gabel had attempted to remove the wrinkles in the center aisle of the sanctuary carpet, but was not able to get all of it smooth again, as he believes the carpet is starting to deteriorate at the high traffic areas. He has recommended that we consider replacing the center section of carpet, and has provided us with a quote and color samples. We are currently discussing our options, and would appreciate any thoughts or input.

We have received several quotes with different options for the replacement entry doors, and are considering these to determine the best option for our church.

The Transition Team has presented the Church Profile to the consistory for review, and we have approved the profile. We would like to thank the Transition Team for their work.

We also want to mention that PSEC has been providing our church with a lot of support during the pastor search process, with assistance in securing Pastor Chuck as our interim pastor and providing us with guidance through the search process. We feel it is appropriate to ask that we consider this in our giving to PSEC in 2019. We do not have a item in the budget that designates a specific donation to the conference, however all of the donations that are designated as benevolence on the weekly offering envelopes is sent to them, allowing each individual to determine their support for the conference.

There has been a request from a church member expressing interest in renting the parsonage temporarily while it is vacant during our pastor search. We feel this would be a good way to help offset some of the parsonage expense until we call a new pastor.

Two consistory members have reached their term limits, and will have to step down from consistory in accordance with our bylaws. Thank you Dottie Fronheiser and Mark Hile for your dedicated and faithful work, we are truly blessed by it.

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There are still several consistory positions that need to be filled. Please see any consistory member if you feel called to serve, or if you have any questions about what the responsibilities of consistory members are.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for January will be provided by Terry Shane and Matt Weller. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Bonnie Helmick, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, David Mutter, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Clarence Weller, Matt Weller, and Rev. Charles Maxfield.

Choir Notes

Wed. January 2 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. January 9 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. January 16 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. January 23 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM

Wed. January 30 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM



CEMETERY BOARD NEWS

The next Cemetery Board Meeting is on Tues., Jan. 15th at 7:30 PM at St. John Hill UCC. We will be auditing the books at 6:30 PM before the meeting.

Christian Education News

Thank you to everyone who purchased an item for the angel tree. The look on the ladies faces when the 2 families items were brought in was priceless...they were so thankful! The kids got together too and shopped for some items using the joyful noise money collected. They had a blast running through Walmart looking for the items!

Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up! Mark your calendars for February 3, 2019 and heat up your crock pot. We will again have a soup luncheon after church. Everyone is welcome and if you want, bring a crock of your favorite soup to share! Look for more details in the bulletins.

The next meeting is January 7 at 7 pm.

Announcements from the Hill

CHRISTMAS DE-DECORATING



Following worship on Sunday, January 6th 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,

Community Outreach Collection

We will be collecting for the Boyertown Multi-Service Food Pantry during the month of January. Below is a list of items needed to fill the shelves in the pantry and the hearts of thier clients. If you have any questions, please see Nikki Weller.

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Bath/Shower Soap (bars or liquid)
- Deodorant
- Laundry Soap

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The 2019 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



7 PM & 9 PM

Candlelight Service of Carols,
Scripture & Communion



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.



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.

Scriptures and Sermons for January

Januar 6 - Epiphany - Strange Visitors

Holy Communion

Isaiah 60:1-7

Matthew 12:1-12

January 13 - You Are God's Child

Isaiah 43:1-7

Luke 3:15-17,21-22

January 20 - More Wine!

Isaiah 62:1-9

John 2:1-11

January 27 - The Year of the Lord's Favor

Psalm 19

Luke 4:14-21



Church Contact Information

Rev. Charles Maxfield - Interim Pastor

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

Church E-mail: office@stjohnhillucc.org

Hill Church Events

Holy Communion

1st Sunday of the Month

Park Committee Work Days

2nd Saturday of the month at 8 am

Joyful Noise Offering

3rd Sunday of the Month

Children's Message

3rd Sunday of the Month

Newsletter Deadline

3rd Sunday of the Month

Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday September thru May

(see newsletter for times)

Here is a list of ongoing committee meetings. These meetings are open for anyone who wishes to attend. Most meetings are held in the Christian Education building.

Christian Education

1st Monday of the month at 7 pm

Women's Guild

1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm

Consistory

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm

Want to get involved? These are our upcoming community events.

--2019--

Ham Supper

3rd Saturday in May

Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert

1st Saturday in August

Buckwheat & Sausage Supper

1st Saturday in October

Turkey Supper

1st Saturday in November

Mission Opportunities - Whether you are in need of help or you want to help others, our Hill Church Mission team is here for you.

For more information on any of these items, contact the church office at 610-367-8114

Church Contact Info

Church Phone # 610-367-8114

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org

Church E-mail: office@stjohnhillucc.org

Interim Pastor - Rev. Charles Maxfield

Musical Director/Organist - Mr. Elmer Miller

Church Secretary - Mrs. Nikki Weller

Sexton - Mr. Charles Anhalt

Consistory President - Matt Weller

Consistory Vice President - Arlan Schaeffer

Trustees - Mark Hile, Bill Moyer, Terry Shane

Christian Education Superintendent - Elmer Miller

Cemetery Board President - Elmer Miller

Park Committee President - Mark Hile

Women's Guild President - Megyn Weller

Mission Team - Mark Hile