



News from the Hill...

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

• FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

In early May I attended a series of lectures on Biblical Values. As several of you expressed an interest in this subject, I am taking this opportunity to share with you some of what I heard.

Dr. John Collins, the speaker, is a Biblical scholar at Yale Divinity School. When he heard some politicians talking about "Biblical values" he was concerned, because he had spent his life studying the Bible, and did not recognize what they alleged to be Biblical values. So he gave these lectures. His first lecture: "Does the Bible Affirm a Right to Life?"

First, Dr. Collins made plain that the concept of rights is not in the Bible. This idea developed in the Enlightenment of the Eighteenth century, and is powerfully expressed in our Declaration of Independence. According to Collins, the Bible is not concerned with the rights of people but with the will of God.

This is a difficult idea for us to get our heads around. I would have liked to explore this in more depth with Dr. Collins. For example, the commandment to rest on the seventh day sounds to me like a right to a day of rest. Dr. Collins would evidently say, no, it is the will of God, and we please God by resting on the seventh day. It feels like a right to me, but that is me, interpreting the Scripture from the framework of how we think today.

Dr. Collins explained that the commandment, "You shall not kill," could be better translated, "You shall not murder." There is certainly plenty of killing in the Bible - in war and capital punishment. Collins defined murder as: killing that is not permitted.

Today we do not follow every commandment, as we believe some to be inconsistent with the core message of the Bible and our experience of God. Some examples: "Whoever curses father or mother shall be put to death (Exodus 21:17; see also Deuteronomy 21:18-21), many prohibitions in Leviticus chapter 20, and many more. Also, the ancients did not have prisons to hold people for decades, so handed out death sentences more freely. Genesis 9:6 does speak of the sanctity of life. Nevertheless, one cannot argue for a right to life from the Old Testament.

In the New Testament, Jesus presents a path of non-violence: do not return evil for evil, etc. Dr. Collins explained that while the Old Testament speaks of laws and the ordering of society, the New Testament addresses personal behavior. Jesus and the apostles were not in a position to legislate. They could only advise how we are to live in our personal lives and in the community of faith.

Well, I thought this lecture was going to be about abortion, but to this point Dr. Collins had been addressing capital punishment. It all relates to the theme of a right to life.

What does the Bible say about abortion?

Nothing.

But Dr. Collins did find some things to talk about.

The closest the Scripture comes, is a law for when a pregnant woman is hurt in a fight and miscarries (Exodus 21:22-25). The person who caused the injury is fined. If there is further harm, which must refer to the woman, the offender is to be punished accordingly. So causing the termination of a pregnancy is a crime, but it is not treated as murder. And this is not referring to an intentional termination of pregnancy.

The New Testament makes no explicit mention of abortion.

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Passages often quoted by opponents of abortion, such as Jeremiah 1:5, “before I formed you in the womb I knew you,” also Psalm 139:13-16, speak of God’s foreknowledge but say nothing about abortion or when life begins. On the other hand, passages where the speaker wishes he had not been born (Jeremiah 20:14,15; Job 3:3) are not justification for abortion.

I had hoped Dr. Collins would discuss the question of when life begins, but he did not. I guess, for Dr. Collins, if there is no right to life, then the question of when life begins is irrelevant.

Dr. Collins concluded: the Bible does not affirm a fetus’ right to life, neither does it affirm a woman’s right to choose. A believer may argue for either position, based on their faith, but it is not a Biblical value.

Chuck Maxfield

CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Tuesday, May 14th, 2019 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer’s Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for April 2019.

Operating Fund	April 2019	2019 YTD	April 2018	2018 YTD
Income	\$10,840.79	\$43,776.59	\$13,771.42	\$38,633.18
Expenses	\$17,991.58	\$44,853.52	\$9,896.33	\$44,798.50
Income vs. Expenses	(\$7,150.79)	(\$1,076.93)	\$3,875.09	(\$6,165.32)

- Benevolence received for April was \$262.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$1531.00.
- Expenses were higher than normal due to payment for roof repairs done to sexton house.

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

Communion will be celebrated on June 2nd.

P&K has completed the air conditioning installation in the Sanctuary, and the final payment has been made. We hope that this will provide some additional comfort for worship services and special events.

We have only received one quote for the replacement of the church roof, and are waiting to hear back from some of the other companies that have been contacted to provide a estimate.

The chimney for the wood stove at the parsonage has been deteriorating for several years, and it is at the point that we need to have it repaired. John Lindsey has given a estimate of \$1900 to perform the necessary repairs, and the consistory has voted to proceed with the repair.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for June will be provided by Bonnie Helmick, Arlan Schaeffer, and Rick Furches. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18th at 7:00pm.

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



Choir Notes

The season of Summer is almost upon us. The Choir is officially on summer vacation after June 9. Volunteers are requested to help with our summer music for our worship services. If you play an instrument, piano or can sing a song please contact me. Thanks for your consideration.

Elmer Miller
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

Christian Education News

VBS is almost here...It's not too late to sign up kids or volunteers!

Summer Sunday School starts June 2 - Starting June 2 there will be no 8:30 am Sunday School for June, July & August. However children ages 5-12 yrs will be dismissed for a modified Sunday School lesson during our worship services.

The next meeting is June 3 at 7 pm.

Announcements from the Hill



Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, June 9th, we will be recognizing Hill Church graduates, and we need your help. If you are aware of someone connected to Hill Church who will be graduating from high school, college, or making another significant move (such as from middle school to high school), please contact the church office (610-367-8114) so we can be sure to include them. Thank you for helping us with this. And be sure to attend worship on June 9th when we will be honoring and praying for our graduates.



Outdoor Worship

Sunday, June 30 we will have worship outside in the bandshell. Be sure to join us at 9:30 am for a beautiful service outside.

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.

June 9-12
6:00-8:00 pm



Volunteer
& Child
Registration
available
online

Summer Concert

June 29, 2019

Boyertown Alumni Marching Unit

MUSIC: 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

FOOD AVAILABLE AT 4:00

Rain or Shine

Public Cordially Invited!

Good Will Offering Accepted.



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

2nd Sunday of the month after church

Consistory

2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm

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

VBS

June 9-12, 2019

Boyertown Alumni Band Summer Concert

June 29, 2019

Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert

1st Saturday in August

Remington Ryde Summer Concert

September 15, 2019

Buckwheat & Sausage Supper

1st Saturday in October

Turkey Supper

1st Saturday in November

Ham Supper

3rd Saturday in May

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