



# News from the Hill...

St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 January 2016

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## Church Contact Information

Pastor Christian Creyer –Pastor

Rev. Jim Rogers – Pastor Emeritus

Mr. Eric Miller – Church Sexton

Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/  
Organist

Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary

Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer

Church Telephone: 610-367-8114

Church Website: [www.stjohnhillucc.org](http://www.stjohnhillucc.org)

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Happy New Year!

Already?!?! Yep, it is a new year and a time to begin anew in the light of Christ. As we look toward 2016 with all of its wonder and yet to discover blessings, let us move into this New Year with a feeling of wonder and awe at what we just witnessed in the birth of Christ.

There was so much joy and celebration at the birth of Christ. Let us not forget how he came to be our savior, to accept death at the hands of the ones he loved, and yet still took on the punishment that he did not deserve. We come to this New Year, I hope, refreshed and renewed in the image of the infant in the manger and all the promises he fulfilled for each of us.

The story of the Wise Men's arrival is one of my favorite stories. In Matthew 2:1-12, we hear this story of three Magi traveling from the Far East to see this child. These men were not known to be Jews or have any knowledge of the Christ child, except for the blaring star which they followed. And they did, bringing gifts for a child for which they had no idea what he would do but only that he would change the world.

As we begin this New Year together, celebrating the arrival of Christ and following his cross into the future, what ways can we make a difference and change the world in His name?

Peace and blessings,

*Pastor Christian*

## Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, December 15th, 2015 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 2015.

Operating Fund	November 2015	2015 YTD	November 2014	2014 YTD
Income	\$17,184.07	\$121,199.34	\$14,386.17	\$137,479.67
Expenses	\$16,557.52	\$149,283.74	\$9,886.83	\$162,946.11
Income vs. (Expenses)	\$626.55	(\$28,084.40)	\$4,499.34	(\$25,466.44)

- Benevolence received for November was \$364.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$3,547.00.
- Proceeds from the luminary display of \$1,051.40 will be sent to Wounded Warrior Project.
- A current summary of all Hill Church financial accounts is available on the bulletin boards in the narthex and Sunday school hallway.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Christian conducted a total of 28 visits on the phone and at various locations from mid-November through mid-December. There will be three Christmas Eve Services with communion at each service. Please join us at 3:00, 7:00, or 10:00pm to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! Communion will also be held on January 3rd. Pastor Christian will be on vacation from January 10th-13th. Linda Kozlowski will be available for any Pastoral needs which may arise during that time.

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

**Natural Church Development:** The Church Health Team has set a tentative date of January 16th from 9am to 3 pm to hold a planning meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a strategy for implementing changes to our worship service, which was identified as the primary area of concern based on the results of the Healthy Church Survey. This meeting is open to all who wish to attend. If you have any questions, please contact any member of the team. Members of the Church Health Team are: Rick Furches, Eileen Fisher, Joel Weller, Mayetta Shane, and Jane Prutzman.

**2016 Consistory Meetings:** We have decided to move our monthly Consistory meeting to the second Tuesday of each month. We also would like to remind everyone that Consistory meetings are open for anyone who wishes to attend.

**Same Sex Marriage:** A concern has been brought to the Consistory regarding where our church stands regarding same sex marriages. We have reviewed past discussions and also the vote taken on this issue several years ago and we will issue a letter in the near future to address this concern.

**Annual Meeting:** We have a tentative date set of February 21st for our regular worship service to hold our Annual Congregational Meeting.

**Consistory Members:** We would like to say thank you to the three consistory members who have given several years of dedicated service and will be retiring from consistory this year. Thank you Donnie, Stephanie, and Susy for your commitment to our church!

Continued from page 2...

**Consistory Pre-Service set up** for January will be provided by Kristen Nagy and Matt Weller. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at 7:00pm.

In Christ, Your Consistory: Stephanie Benjamin, Donald Conrad, Dottie Fronheiser, Rick Furches, Mark Hile, Ray Kochey, Kristen Nagy, Arlan Schaeffer, Terry Shane, Clarence Weller, Matt Weller, Susy Yerger, and Pastor Christian.

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## Association & Conference News



### Conference

- Spring Conference Meeting (Annual Meeting): This year, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference has decided to hold its annual meeting from June 10-12 at West Chester University. The specifics of this event are not quite finalized but there will be workshops, dynamic preachers and teachers, with a revival type worship experience on Sunday morning. If you have an interest in attending or would like more information, please see Pastor Christian.

### Ministerium

- Happy New Year from the Oley Valley Ministerium of Churches!
- The Oley Valley High School is looking for opportunities to serve the community: Each student who graduates from OVHS must complete 30 hours of community service prior to their senior year. We have several students attending OVHS and one of the ways in which we can help is to provide ideas of projects that students can perform or assist in performing. Also if we know of a family in need of assistance, please let Pastor Christian know so that he can pass that along to the Principal at the High School as they would like to begin reaching out into the community to help. (There have been meals sponsored for Thanksgiving and Christmas and all of the money has been raised by the students to provide this to the community.) If you know of a project, please let Pastor Christian know so that he can coordinate with the High School.

## *News from the Women's Guild*

We met at Dryville Hotel for our Christmas Banquet. We had a wonderful time. The new officers will take over in January. They are Megyn Stauffer, President; Kristen Nagy, Vice-President; Nancy Weller, Treasurer; Eileen Fisher, Secretary. Copies of the minutes will be sent to Joyce Bingamin and Marie Brumbach who are unable to attend meetings. We will decide at our January meeting which month each member will do the program.

We will purchase diapers for the collection instead of formula. The collection of diapers and wipes will be through the month of December and church members are welcome to help.

Have a blessed New Year!

"To you O Lord, I pray. Don't foul me Lord for I am trusting you. Don't let my enemies succeed. Don't give them victory over me."

~ Psalm 25:1-2

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### CEMETERY BOARD NEWS

The next Cemetery Board Meeting is on Tues., Jan. 19th at 7:30 PM at St. John Hill UCC. We will be auditing the books at 6:30 PM before the meeting.

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### Sunday School News



Thank you to everyone who picked out an angel from our Angel Tree and bought a gift to make someone else's Christmas extra special. Thanks also to Tracey Kolb for organizing it and delivering the gifts in time for Christmas!

Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up in February...be sure to join us for lots of tasty soups!



Our next leadership meeting will be on January 4th at 7:00 pm.

**Choir News**

Thank you to all who participated in the presentation of the Christmas Cantata. Without your support it would be very difficult to present this inspiring worship service.



Wednesday, January 6 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, January 13 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, January 20 - Sr. Choir 7:00 PM  
Wednesday, January 27 - Sr. Choir 7 PM



Elmer Miller  
Organist/Music Director  
610-367-5613 or e-mail [elmerhm@dejazzd.com](mailto:elmerhm@dejazzd.com)



**Congregation Corner**

Each month Pastor Christian will be “interviewing” one of our members in an effort to get to know everyone at Hill Church. As part of that process, Pastor Christian will also write up a “story” of that person’s life for the newsletter. Let’s see how much you know about your fellow Christians and Hill Church family members. Can you guess who our “interviewee” is?

*This Month’s Congregation Corner member:*

Hi everyone, I was born in Pottstown and I have been attending here my entire life. In my spare time, you can usually find me reading, crocheting, baking, sewing, and many other outdoor activities. Sorry to be so vague but if I tell you my most favorite activity, I think it will give me away and I want to keep you guessing for a little bit any way. Oh, and I continue to attend here because it is familiar and comfortable since I have been here my entire life.

There are two verses which provide me comfort and joy...Philippians 4:13 which reads, “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.” (NIV) and Psalm 118:24 in which the writer records, “This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.” (NKJV). I also like the song, “In Christ Alone (Solid Rock)”. If I could meet anyone from the Bible, I would have to choose Peter because I would like to know how it was that he denied Christ three times but in the end became the “solid rock” upon which the church was founded.

I know I mentioned some of my favorite things before but my most favorite time of year is winter for the activities that you can do and being able to see God in the great outdoors. I would have to say though that I encounter God most in my daily morning devotions and in the little prayers I speak throughout the day.

If I were stranded on a deserted island, I would need these three things...a Bible, Chocolate, and my glasses...Who am I?



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How many of you were able to guess last month’s Congregation Corner member?  
It was Dennis Weller.  
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## **Bible Trivia**

From Bible Puzzles, Quizzes & Brain Twisters, the BIG FUN collection.  
All answers are listed on page 7.

### What Do You Know About the Bible?

Pick the correct answer from the choices given...

- 1) The first five books of the Bible: a) Gospels b) Pentateuch c) Epistles
- 2) The first four books of the New Testament: a) Gospels b) Pentateuch c) Epistles
- 3) The Lord's Prayer can be found in: a) Exodus b) Matthew c) Corinthians
- 4) The 10 Commandments can be found in: a) Genesis b) Exodus c) Haggai
- 5) The relationship of God to His people is described as:  
a) Zookeeper to animals b) Weaver to cloth c) Shepherd to sheep
- 6) The Garden of Eden is introduced in: a) Genesis b) Luke c) Acts
- 7) Not a parable of Jesus: a) Prodigal Son b) Good Samaritan c) Hare and tortoise
- 8) The last book of the Bible is: a) Malachi b) Revelation c) Thessalonians
- 9) Not a book in the New Testament: a) Malachi b) Revelation c) Thessalonians
- 10) Epistle Means: a) History b) Letter c) E-document
- 11) "The Prayer Book of the Bible" is: a) Genesis b) Corinthians c) Psalms
- 12) The "Great Love Chapter of the Bible" is found in: a) Genesis b) Corinthians c) Psalms

## **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)



We will also endeavor to contact local radio stations, especially WEEU (830 AM). However, we have often experienced considerably difficulty getting through to many of the stations, so please do not rely solely on information broadcast over the radio stations.

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.

# Announcements from the Hill

## 2016 Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed

Second Sunday Coffee Fellowship hosts are needed. Please consider signing up for a date on the new sign up sheet located on the Sunday School Hallway bulletin board.

## Church Record Updates



We are working on updating our church records so we can keep in contact with our church family. If you have not already updated us, please help us out and do so by going to: <http://goo.gl/forms/d764ZuntEx>  
Thank You!

## ..... Weekly Multi-Service Collection

We continue to support our local community through the Boyertown Multi-Service. Each week in January we will be collecting a different food item for the food bank. Please do not feel obligated to give something but if you can, the following items will be greatly appreciated:

- Jan. 3 – Jelly
- Jan. 10 – Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, etc)
- Jan. 17 – Oatmeal (quick oats or cooked)
- Jan. 24 – Snacks (no candy, but pretzels and cookies would be appreciated)
- Jan. 31 – Coffee (caffeinated and non-caffeinated)

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## 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!



The bible movie club will be meeting on the following dates in the new year. Please come out and join us. We gather at 6pm and the movie will start about 6:30. Refreshments are available.

- Jan 22 - The Road to Emmaus, PA
- Feb 26 - Daniel
- March 18 - Peter and the Last Supper
- April 22 - Esther
- May 20 - Hosea
- June 17 - Sampson

The passages to be read before will be listed in the bulletin. Hope to see you there!

## BIBLE TRIVIA ANSWERS

- |        |       |
|--------|-------|
| q (12) | a (9) |
| c (11) | c (5) |
| q (10) | b (4) |
| a (9)  | b (3) |
| b (8)  | a (2) |
| c (7)  | b (1) |





# January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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						1 <b>Happy New Year</b>	2
3 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	4 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	5 7 pm Women's Guild Meeting	6 7 pm Sr. Choir	7	8	9 6:30 am Men's Breakfast	
10 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	11	12 7 pm Consistory Meeting	13 7 pm Sr. Choir	14	15	16	
17 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	18	19 7 pm Cemetery Board Meeting at St. John Hill UCC	20 7 pm Sr. Choir	21	22 6 pm Bible Movie Club	23	
24 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	25	26	27 7 pm Sr. Choir	28	29	30	
31 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service							



