



News from the Hill...

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

Thoughts from Pastor Mary

Whom can you trust?

In a time when so much is claimed to be fake. In an era when lies can be expected. In a season when truth is doubtful. What may we trust to be real?

In a world where artificial is a standard. In a place where skepticism is the norm. In a nation where half-truths are the sound bites of the day. What may we trust to be authentic?

Jesus certainly knew the struggles and challenges of human thought and emotions. After all, he was as fully human as he was fully divine. We read about him being tempted in the wilderness. Surely, he had the capacity of free will and decision making. Yet, there is something about Jesus that often stands in stark contrast to or own human experience. Jesus lived with confidence. Jesus lived with a certain degree of assurance.

Yes, Jesus prayed in a time of personal agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Blood was sweated through his forehead and face as he wrestled with a decision that changed history. Even then, however, he kept a certainty that all was well, and everything would be OK. Why else would he remain there where they would find him?

The scripture that describes his conviction is found in the Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 9, verses 52-53: "On their way, they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem."

Jesus had his face "set" to go to Jerusalem. Knowing fully what his fate would be once he arrived in the city, there is no over-the-shoulder, backward, looking, He is "set" like concrete sets in its framed molding. He is "set" as a clock is to set to the correct time. He is facing Jerusalem—including the cross on the mount of Calvary—with a "set" way of certainty.

Our lives are repeatedly lived in times and places of indecision. Sometimes, our decision making comes down to picking the less of two evils. Other times, we find compromise to be the better choice. Whatever, it would make life so much easier to be able to live with the conviction and steadfastness of Jesus.

And, I would suggest, that there is the point where the rubber meets the road!

For Jesus was trusting in God and in God's presence. The truth that provided his base was the Spirit's leading. The reality that kept him grounded was the will of God.

When it comes to trust, we may be able to believe some people some of the time. When it comes to truth, we may find it in some sources some of the time. When it comes to reality, we may be able to find integrity and love in some things some of the time. Nonetheless, the fundamental fact is this: when it is found in God, whatever it is, is most definitely true, real, and worthy of our loyalty.

It matters not, in the grand scheme of things, if it is being democrat or republican...liberal or conservative...progressive or moderate. What matters is seeking and following all that is of God. And, one thing we can be sure of: "...love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." (I John 4.7-8)

Yes, they will know we are Christians by our love!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mary

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, July 11th, 2017 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the June Consistory meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for June 2017.

Operating Fund	June 2017	2017 YTD	June 2016	2016 YTD
Income	\$8,757.75	\$65,262.05	\$7,779.73	\$59,005.70
Expenses	\$11,860.65	\$65,567.15	\$12,931.35	\$65,665.72
Income vs. Expenses	(\$3,102.90)	(\$305.10)	(\$5,151.62)	(\$6,660.02)

- Benevolence received for June was \$162.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$1767.00

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

We would like to say congratulations to Pastor Mary. For the last few months she has been working with the Disciples of Christ to have her standing reinstated, and as of June 24th she has been granted standing in the Disciples denomination.

Pastor Mary would like to offer a Confirmation class beginning sometime this fall. If you know of someone interested in joining, please see Mary for details.

We have received another quote for installation of air conditioning in the sanctuary. We are going to reach out to the companies that gave us quotes last year and ask them to update them to reflect current pricing, and then we will have a congregational meeting to discuss our options. At this time we have not scheduled a date for a meeting, but will keep you informed with any updates.

We discussed the need for repairs of some of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, and have received a estimate for repairs from Greenwood Stained Glass in Topton. Since it is difficult to see the top windows that are in need of repair, it is difficult to tell exactly the extent of repair needed, but they have estimated repairs between \$125 and \$375 per window, and anticipate that most of the windows would be closer to the \$125 per window estimate. At this point we feel it is important to have these repairs made before the condition of the windows worsens, so we are going to begin taking the windows out two at a time and have them repaired. If you would like to help offset the cost of this repair, you may do so by using the portion of your offering envelopes designated for "maintenance and repairs".

Another maintenance item which we would like to begin looking into is replacing the church entry doors with something more energy efficient and also more secure. While this discussion is only in the preliminary stages, we welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

We have been in contact with Graber Letterin' and will be receiving a quote for production costs of promotional items, such as coffee mugs, pamphlets or magnets made with Hill Church events and contact information printed on them.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for August will be provided by Ray Kochey and Dottie Fronheiser. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8th 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

A fun filled evening was enjoyed at Roger & Dorothy Wagner's home and their family. We all brought a food that started with the first letter of our first name and it was all so yummy! We then played games provided by Clara and Dorothy and enjoyed some jokes - (not sure if CVS is a real place for a bridal registry for elderly people though) We shared patriotic stories and songs. We learned from Eileen that you should never eat moldy chicken even after it's been cooked (it's a great story - ask her).

We will hold our annual public grab bag auction on August 1st starting at 7 p.m. Oh, please set this date aside and join in the fun because you just never know what surprises are in the bags. Invite guests - family, friends, relatives and neighbors. The more the merrier! (light refreshments will be available. Of course refreshments will be available - We are Hill Church and we love to eat and have fun!) Proceeds to benefit the replacement of our outside doors.

Our condolences go out to our sponsored Compassion International child's family. She contracted Dengue from a mosquito bite and her poor little heart gave out to the fever and other symptoms. Compassion paid the hospital bill and is also paying/sponsoring counseling for the family.



Thanks to the volunteers who helped with music during our July Services. There are still available dates for August and the beginning of Sept. Please contact me if you are willing to help.

Choir rehearsal will begin Wed. Sept. 6th. If you enjoy singing please join us.



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

Sunday School News

Regular Sunday School classes for kids and adults will begin September 3rd at 8:30 am!

During VBS our kids collected an offering for the Mission Team to purchase Home Depot gifts cards. The kids collected \$240 during the week and that turned into twelve \$20 gift cards to give to the homeowners to complete any little projects on their home after the mission team has completed theirs.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Ringgold Band Picnic on Saturday, August 5. More details are in this newsletter.

Our annual family day at Knoebels in Elysburg will be on Sunday, August 13. We will meet at 10:30 am for a brief worship service followed by a fun filled day of rides, shows and fun. But, don't forget we need to test your diving skills at 1 pm on the bumper cars! Each Sunday School student will also receive \$10 in ride tickets.

Our next leadership meeting will be on August 7 at 7:00 pm.



Ringgold Band Picnic

Saturday, August 5th



We need lots of help. If you have never helped before now is the time to volunteer and have fun! Donations of baked goods are needed and greatly appreciated. Donations of intermission raffle items are also being accepted; please see Elmer Miller. Advertisement posters & signs are available in the Narthex. Please help distribute them throughout the community.

Please note that help IS needed to clean up grounds and set up and serve food the day of this event.. If you are available to help with clean up or the day of the event, please let Elmer, Eileen, Terry, Dennis or Nancy know. Come when you can, leave when you must!

The following dates are the schedule of events for the Ringgold Band Picnic:

Monday, July 31 @ 6:00 p.m.

Clean-Up (clean up dining hall and wash dishes, mow grass and trim weeds.)
Please bring lawn equipment for grounds work.



Wednesday, August 2 @ 6:00 p.m.

Rain date for clean up



Saturday, August 5 @ 1:00 p.m.

Food Preparation

(peel potatoes for french fries, complete grounds work, wiping down serving stand).

Saturday, August 5 @ 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Help with picnic and food sales.

Refreshments available at 3:00 p.m. Music from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Monday, August 7 @ 6:00 p.m.

Close up buildings and trash removal.



Celtic Martins Summer Concert



Sunday, September 10, 2017

Music 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Food Available at 4:00 p.m.



Help needed to set up starting around 1 pm and food servers by 4 p.m.

Baked goods are not needed for this concert

Refreshments and concert rain or shine.

Free will offering will be taken.

Announcements from the Hill

Confirmation Class

Pastor Mary will be starting a confirmation class in September. If you know of anyone who would like to take part of this class, please let Pastor Mary know or call the church office.

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.

2nd Sunday Coffee Hour

There are still a few open dates available if you would like to host a coffee hour after church. Sign up in the Sunday School hallway.

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!

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.

Weekly Multi-Service Collection

We will again continue to support our local community through the Boyertown Multi-Service. For the month of August we will collect a few needed items to fill their shelves. Please do not feel like you have to contribute but if you can, know it is greatly appreciated by those who are in need in Boyertown!

Items needed are:

- Tissues
- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap
- Laundry Detergent

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



August



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	July 31 6 pm Ringgold Band Picnic Prep	1 7 pm Women's Guild Annual Grab Bag Auction	2 Raindate for Picnic Prep	3	4	5 Ringgold Band Picnic 1 pm Food & Grounds Prep 3 pm Food Available 5 pm Music
6 9:30 am Worship Service Outdoor in the Bandshell	7 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Picnic Clean-Up 7 pm Sunday Shool Meeting	8 7 pm Consistory Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Worship Service Knoebels Sunday	14 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	28 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	29	30	31	Summer Concert  Celtic Martins September 10 5 pm 	