



# News from the Hill...

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

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## Thoughts from Pastor Mary

It was one of those teaching moments. Jesus at the community gathering and finding questions addressed to him. Some of the inquiries were not to get information that was helpful in a sense of being aware of the greater wisdom and truth. The religious leaders of the day had a more selfish desire—namely, to find reason to claim that Jesus was not a true follower of God, and the Messiah who had come to redeem them.

There were, however, those that were disciples and servants wishing only to receive a pertinent word to help them be ever more faithful. To those Jesus spoke, saying, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teaching. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8.31-32)

Freedom is a wonderful thing. Liberty offers a life that can pursue what is not only good and right, but also the better good and the more righteous right. So, it is that truth and freedom go hand in hand. Freedom leads to truth, a greater truth. And, truth leads one to freedom.

It is ironic that those who questioned Jesus had asked him about things that they hoped would show that his words were not true. Then, found as one who spew falsehoods, they would have Jesus painted into a corner. His freedom to be the teacher sent by God called into question and he relegated as a false prophet.

What these inquirers sought was self-serving. And, in their knowledge (as such) they were imprisoned in their own conceit and closed-mindedness. Their hearts were cold and their spirits were hollow. The faithful, nevertheless, were in the liberty of truth because their minds sought wisdom, their hearts inclined to goodness, and their spirits alive in discovery.

Teaching moments, like these, are something I find challenging. It is human nature, I would suggest, that the comfort of information that feeds our ego hinders our desire and pursuit of truthfulness. When presented with a truth that conflicts that to which we cling, maintaining a status quo, we find ourselves perplexed. Why do we not find the freedom that truly set us free? While, at the same time, wanting to conserve what we already have.

The lesson here is one of letting go and letting God (be God). God is the utmost truth, the pinnacle of what is holy and wise and sure. If but we allow God to lead us and guide us, our freedom would be complete. And, we know the truth that speaks to us in every day of life—the teachings of Jesus.

Yes, Jesus has spoken truth that resonate through the centuries, even unto eternity. And, the truth of Jesus centers in his commandment that we should love God and one another. They will know we are Christians by our love. In that love will be free!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Mary*

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Tuesday, June 20th, 2017 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

Treasurer’s Report: General Operating Fund Income and Expense Summary for May 2017.

Operating Fund	May 2017	2017 YTD	May 2016	2016 YTD
Income	\$8,490.35	\$56,04.30	\$12,399.81	\$56,972.91
Expenses	\$11,077.79	\$53,706.50	\$8,323.18	\$55,197.55
Income vs. Expenses	(\$2,587.44)	\$2,797.80	\$4,076.63	\$1,775.36

- Benevolence received for May was \$297.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$1605.00

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

Communion will be celebrated on July 2nd.

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

For the past few months we have been discussing the possibility of having some Hill Church promotional items made, such as small magnets or pamphlets with updated church information and events listed, or coffee mugs to hand out to visitors. Pastor Mary has gotten a few preliminary samples made, and we will be contacting some local vendors for ideas and production costs.

We also would like to restart the process of exploring air conditioning in the sanctuary. We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to the air conditioning fund, since the available funding is still lower than the estimated cost of installation.

We understand that the stained glass windows in the sanctuary are in need of repair, and are looking into options to fund the needed repairs. If you have any thoughts or would like to help out with this project please see any consistory member.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for July will be provided by Matt Weller. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11th at 7:00 pm.

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.



**Park Committee News**

**Workday & Men’s Breakfast: Saturday, July 8, 2017**

We’ll start with the men’s breakfast about 7:00 am at Creek Side Diner. Afterwards (around 8 am) meet at church to tackle our to do list!

Everyone is welcome. Thanks and see you there.

## *News from the Women's Guild*

Thank you to Mayetta who was our host of the tea party for the June meeting. We had beautiful servers throughout the night who served us delicious food and tea. They were so cute and did a wonderful job; it was a pleasure to be there. We received thank you letters from Safeberks, Walk for No More and Bethany. Our next meeting is July 11th at Dorothy Wagner's. We all need to bring a dish that begins with the first letter of our first name. We are also holding the Annual Grab bag Auction on August 1st at 7 pm and it's proceeds are for the church doors.



Volunteers to provide music selections during the summer worship services are needed and appreciated. If you want to sing or play an instrument selection please contact me. Thanks and enjoy the summer!

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



## **Sunday School News**

Summer Sunday School (June thru August) will be held during church. Children (K-6th grade) will go to church with their parents and then following the children's message they will leave and go to Sunday School in the primary floor room. Nursery will continue to be available for children 4 and younger during the entire service. The adult class will not meet during the summer, but will resume in September.

Thank you to all who helped out, donated or prayed for our VBS. We had a wonderfully exhausting week of fun, dancing and learning of God's purpose for us. We are cleaning up and looking forward to next year to do it all over again!

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.



## **Cemetery News**

The cemetery board will be meeting on Tuesday, July 18 at 7:30 pm at St. John-Hill UCC.



## 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.



## Upcoming Summer Events

Mission Trip Birdsboro - July 19-22

Annual Women's Guild Grab Bag Auction - August 1

Family Day at Knoebels - August 13

Celtic Martins Summer Concert - September 10





# July



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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## Upcoming Events

August 1 - Annual Women's Guild Grab Bag Auction  
 August 5 - Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert  
 August 13 - Knoebels Sunday  
 September 10 - Summer Concert: Celtic Martins

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August 1 - Annual Women's Guild Grab Bag Auction August 5 - Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert August 13 - Knoebels Sunday September 10 - Summer Concert: Celtic Martins						
2 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion 9:45 am Sunday School	3 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	4 	5	6	7	8 7 am Men's Breakfast 8 am Work Day
9 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	10 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	11 Women's Guild Meeting at Dorothy Wagner's	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	18 7 pm Consistory Meeting  7:30 pm Cemetery Board Meeting at St. John-Hill UCC	19 Mission Trip	20 Mission Trip	21 Mission Trip	22 Mission Trip
23 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	24 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday School	31 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Bible Study 6 pm Prep for Ringgold Band Picnic					