



News from the Hill...

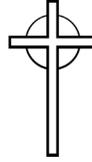
St. John-Hill U.C.C. 620 Hill Church Road, Boyertown, PA 19512 March 2017

Church Contact Information

Re. Mary Lake-Dillensnyder - Interim Pastor

Mr. Charles Anhalt - Sexton

Rev. Jim Rogers – Pastor Emeritus



Mrs. Wendy Shane - Church Treasurer

Mr. Elmer Miller – Musical Director/
Organist

Church Telephone: 610-367-8114

Mrs. Nikki Weller – Church Secretary

Church Website: www.stjohnhillucc.org

PASTORAL PONDERERS

Greetings dear servant-disciples of Christ! It is good to have another opportunity to share in our ministry together. This month we focus our hearts and minds on the Season of Lent.

I learned a new word the other day: fastnachts

I saw the word on a sign which was adorned with a delicious looking donut. Gary, my husband, told me how they were also known as a cruller. Crullers, however, are twisted dough or curled donuts. For me, the fastnachts look much more appetizing.

One of the many blessings of the German heritage in Berks County and our community is the wonderful language of Pennsylvania Dutch. Well I did know it was Pennsylvania Deutsch. What I did not know was the German term for the donuts that are part of Fat Tuesday. And, yes, I now know it to be Fastnacht Day.

We party before the sun is eclipsed in Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Our party is a way of saying “tomorrow we begin some very important stuff...so today we make ready!”

Fasting has a long history as a spiritual discipline. The symbolic darkness of night also has a legacy within the Christian Faith. Fastnacht (or, night of fast) is, by tradition, the preparation to start our Lenten Journey by using up all the cooking fat in our cupboards.

Without that fat, we fast by eliminating foods from our daily meals that were a step beyond the plain and simple. It is like giving up the frills and thrills to get back to the basics. Basics are good. They remind us of our core values and central principles. We all have them. They are the crux of the matter substance of who we are. As such, they shape our lives. Out of them come our way of being in the world.

Being in the world is often a challenge at best. We pray saying “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” That is no small task. To be into that reality, we need discipline...we need ways to grow and strengthen our witness of God’s realm in our daily living. That, in a nut shell, is the season of Lent.

“Flex your spiritual muscles,” is perhaps an apt description. “Learn to walk in a new way,” is the language of repentance. “Sharpen your edge,” is a way of proclaiming our need to live closer to God and closer to one another.

Our theme for Lent encompasses these things. It’s time to get in better shape. It’s time to grow in connectedness to God. It’s time to draw closer together in the unity and harmony of God’s love. After all, Jesus and the cross of Calvary are the greatest expression of love, ever, and forever.

So, let us get ready to love...more clearly, more dearly, day by day.

“They will know we are Christians by our love...by our love. Yes, they will know we are Christians by our love!”

A blessed month be yours and to those who you love.

Consistory News

The Consistory met on Monday, February 13th, 2016 and discussed, reported and voted on the following items:

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

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

Operating Fund	January 2017	2017 YTD	January 2016	2016 YTD
Income	\$11,366.87	\$11,366.87	\$9,527.49	\$9,527.49
Expenses	\$10,835.23	\$10,835.23	\$10,230.36	\$10,230.36
Income vs. Expenses	\$531.64	\$531.64	(\$702.87)	(\$702.87)

- Benevolence received for January was \$267.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$267.00
- We were able to transfer \$3,601.99 from the General Fund to the Trust Fund Income Fund (aka Rainy Day Fund) to start the new year with \$1.00 in the General Fund.

Communion will be on Ash Wednesday, March 1st, and also on March 5th during our worship service.

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

Recent Events at Hill Church: We have been focusing most of our time and energy on the developments regarding Pastor Mary's status as our minister, and the challenges we have faced during this process. We would like to thank you for your support, guidance, and prayers during this time. As we move forward, be assured that we will continue to keep everyone informed of any new developments. We also will do our best to be available before and after worship service if you have any questions, thoughts or comments that you would like to discuss with us.

Annual Report: To reduce expenses and conserve resources, we have sent copies of our Annual Report via e-mail this year and will also have it accessible through our website. We will have paper copies available in the Narthex for those who do not have internet access or would like a paper copy. We will try to maintain a supply of paper copies, but if you do not see any in the Narthex please see any consistory member or Nikki.

Spring Cleaning: April 1 will be our annual Spring Cleaning. Please plan on coming out to help keep our beautiful church clean. Many hands will make light work! We will begin cleaning around 8:00 am. Supplies will be available, but please feel free to bring your own.

2017 Consistory Members: We would like to welcome Bob Fleming and David Mutter and thank them for volunteering to serve on consistory. There is still one position available which we would like to fill. If you are interested, please see one of the current consistory members.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for March will be provided by Ray Kochey and Rick Furches. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14th 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.

News from the Women's Guild

We had a meeting on Tuesday Feb. 7th. At our meeting we agreed to donate \$200 worth of baby wipes and diapers to the Boyertown Multi Service. Our new sponsor child Jhojani's birthday is coming up in April so we sent \$10 to her. We also sent a \$50 check to Safe Berks shelter and Bethany Children's home. Eileen had the program and it was on Valentines/Love.

Our next meeting is Tuesday March 7th at Dryville hotel for dinner and we will be having a speaker join us from Women in Crisis at 6:15 pm.



Choir Notes

The Cantata Choir will present "In Calvary's Shadow" (A Tenebrae Service)
on Maundy Thursday April 13 at 7:00 PM.

Wednesday, March 1 - Sr. Choir 6:20 PM, Cantata 8:00 PM

Wednesday, March 8 - Sr. Choir 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 16 - Cantata @ Salem UCC 6:00 PM,
brief Sr. Choir rehearsal after cantata

Wednesday, March 22 - Sr. Choir 6:20 PM, Cantata 8:00 PM

Wednesday, March 29 - Sr. Choir 6:20 PM, Cantata 8:00 PM



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

Sunday School News

Thank you to everyone who brought a crock of soup to share. We had 16 soups to sample. If you would like to taste a soup again, recipe books with all the soups in will be available in the Narthex.

The annual community egg hunt will be April 15...look for more details in the bulletins.

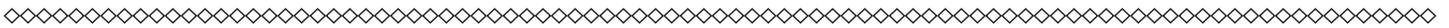
Join us for Sunday School at 8:30 am...We have a class for you!

Our next leadership meeting will be on January 2nd at 7:00 pm.





Wednesday, March 1 – 7 pm Ash Wednesday at Hill Church
Wednesday, March 8 – 7 pm Lenten Service at Hill Church with St. Joe's Lutheran
Wednesday, March 15 – 7 pm Lenten Service at St. Joe's Lutheran
Wednesday, March 22 – 7 pm Lenten Bible Study on Prayer at Hill Church
Wednesday, March 29 – 7 pm Lenten Bible Study on Prayer at Hill Church
Wednesday, April 5 – 7 pm Lenten Bible Study on Prayer at Hill Church
Thursday, April 13 – 7 pm Maundy Thursday Cantata at Hill Church



Iron Sharpens Iron

Iron Sharpens Iron returns to Allentown Saturday April 8th. This one day seminar for men ages 13 to 100 will energize your spirit and add insight to your relationship with God. The day features keynote speakers Michael Crawford and Kenny Luck. Equipping seminars and sessions designed to support men in all stages of life will fill the day. Doors open at 7:30 am with the conference ending at 5 pm. We will car pool from Hill Church. It has been several years since Hill Church has had men attending this event. For those that have attended, all will attest to the day well spent. For more information contact Mark Hile at 610-367-6572 or visit www.ironsharpensiron.net.

As iron sharpens iron so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

Michael Crawford - Pastor Michael Crawford was born and raised in southern California by a single mom. In a moment of desperation, he felt compelled to purchase a Bible, and was drawn to the red-letter passages of the New Testament. Halfway through the book of Matthew, Michael was moved to trust in Christ for salvation. His life was radically changed, propelling him toward eventually becoming a pastor. In July of 2009, Michael moved his wife, Danielle, and their 5 children to the city of Baltimore. As Freedom Church continues to grow, we remain committed to drawing to Christ, developing in community, and deploying into the culture! www.freedomchurchbaltimore.org/

Kenny Luck - Kenny Luck is an ECPA Platinum Award Winning Author, who has authored and co-authored 20 books for men. He is a trusted expert on men's issues and writes the "Every Man" column for the Christian Post addressing men's issues and current events. As the former men's pastor at Saddleback Church, his strategy and model for men's ministry was selected by LifeWay Christian as their worldwide resource for churches worldwide and released in June 2012 as the SLEEPING GIANT. As Founder and President of Every Man Ministries, Kenny is spearheading the Sleeping Giant movement which is revolutionizing men's ministry in the local church, freeing men spiritually, and empowering family health worldwide. Kenny has personally reached over two million men through his live outreaches, podcasts, books and his ON DEMAND men's meetings at everymanministries.com. Kenny and his wife Chrissy have been married 26 years. They have three children (Cara, Ryan and Jenna) and live in Trabuco Canyon, California.

Announcements from the Hill

Weekly Multi-Service Collection

We continue to support our local community through the Boyertown Multi-Service. For the month of March 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:

- Applesauce
- Jell-O & Pudding (boxed or pre made)
- Crackers
- Paper Towels & Plates
- Hand Soap
- Q-Tips

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

The 2017 sign up charts for “Flower & Bulletin Sponsorship” are posted on the Narthex bulletin board. The cost is \$25 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!



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.

SPRING CLEANING

Think warm thoughts...April 1 will be our annual Spring Cleaning. Please plan on coming out to help keep our beautiful church clean. Many hands will make light work! We will begin cleaning around 8:00 am. Supplies will be available, but please feel free to bring your own.

2017 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.



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!



March



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:20 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Ash Wed. Service w/ communion 8 pm Cantata	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service w/ Holy Communion	6 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study 7 pm Sunday School Meeting	7 7 pm Women's Guild Meeting	8 6 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Lent Service w/ St. Joe's @ Hill Church	9	10	11
12 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	13	14 7 pm Consistory Meeting	15 7 pm Lent Service @ St. Joe's Lutheran	16 6 pm Cantata Reh. @ Salem UCC Brief Sr. Choir Reh. After cantata	17	18
19 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 9 am Prayer Group 9:30 am Upper Room Bible Study	21	22 6:20 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Lent Service 8 pm Cantata	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Service	27	28	29 6:20 pm Sr. Choir 7 pm Lent Service 8 pm Cantata	30	31	April 1 8 am Annual Spring Cleaning of Church