



News from the Hill...

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

• FROM THE • Pastor's Desk

THE BIBLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In the last two newsletters I have shared my notes and reflections of lectures by Dr. John Collins on the subject of *Biblical Values*. This month I will share his third topic: *The Bible and the Environment*.

The Bible is sometimes blamed for the environmental crisis in which we find ourselves today. In Genesis 1, after God has created humankind, he blesses them and says,

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth. -*Genesis 1:28*

The idea of *dominion* has led to exploitation and consumption of the environment, without regard for the future. Others argue that the word *dominion* includes some responsibility for stewardship of our resources. In the second creation story, God creates humankind and places him in a Garden of Eden, with the responsibility "to till it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). This clearly requires a sense of responsibility for the Garden/Creation.

God provides for all of creation, not just human beings (*Psalms 104; Job 38-41*, and many others). The beauty and grandeur of nature points to the wisdom and grace of God (*Psalms 8:1-4*).

Our world today is different from the world of the Bible. Today we have the power to destroy life as we know it on this planet, whether through a nuclear holocaust, or global warming. These threats were unknown when the Bible was written, yet Scripture does speak of pollution in the future (*Isaiah 24:5-6*):

The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed laws,
violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant.
Therefore a curse devours the earth,
and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;
therefore the inhabitants of the earth dwindled,
and few people are left.

I was surprised that Dr. Collins did not mention the Noah story. To me, the message of that story is clear: the human race cannot survive by itself; we must preserve the other creatures of the earth if we hope to survive. The earth is our ark.

continued on page 2...

continued from page 1...

The New Testament was written with the expectation that this world will pass away; therefore it does not speak at great lengths about the environment. Jesus does find a lesson in the birds of the air and the wild flowers. He speaks very sharply against acquisitiveness and greed, which lie at the base of our exploitation of the world around us.

In the letters of the New Testament we are told that God's redemptive work is not just for humans:

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. -*Romans 8:19-23*

through [Christ] God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. -*Colossians 1:20*

The book of *Revelation* is filled with apocalyptic chaos and destruction, which may make it particularly relevant for today. Yet it concludes with a new creation, a hopeful ideal for which we seek to live today.

In summary, the Bible does not speak at length to the environmental crisis which did not exist in that day. It does speak of the beauty and wonder of Creation, and God's providential care for Creation, in which we are called to participate. The earth is threatened with pollution when we do not obey God's laws, but live only for ourselves. It is possible for life as we know it here on earth to come to an end; but in ways we cannot understand, God will somehow make all things new.

Charles Maxfield

CONSISTORY NEWS

The Consistory met on Tuesday, July 9th, 2019 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 2019.

Operating Fund	June 2019	2019 YTD	June 2018	2018 YTD
Income	\$13,094.34	\$65,549.11	\$14,634.03	\$47,424.97
Expenses	\$11,149.97	\$63,089.59	\$10,586.40	\$49,925.66
Income vs. Expenses	\$1,944.37	\$2,459.52	\$4,047.63	\$1,546.94

• Benevolence received for June was \$294.00 and will be sent to PSEC. Year to date total is \$2,046.00. \$775.00 has also been collected for Bethany Children's Home.

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

Communion will be celebrated on September 1st.

We will have a Congregational meeting August 18th after worship service to discuss the needed roof repairs. We received several quotes to replace the roof and want to present the information to you to decide how we should proceed.

A window mounted air conditioner has been installed in the Pastor Study. We hope this will help to make this area more comfortable and also reduce the need to run the entire first floor air conditioner unit if cooling is only needed in this room.

The replacement exterior door project should begin sometime in August, which will ensure that the project is completed well before the cold winter months ahead of us. Also please be aware that if you are currently in possession of an exterior door key, it will no longer work after the doors and locks have been replaced. We are working on a distribution plan for when the new keys arrive so we can keep better records of them, and will let you know how to obtain one if needed.

Consistory Pre-Service set up for August will be provided by Sally Shirk and Ray Kochey. The next monthly Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13th 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

Well, summer is floating by and it will be soon time for the choir season. Our first rehearsal will be Wed. Sept. 11th at 7:00 PM. Please come and join us.

There is still time to volunteer to help with our music for our summer services. Please contact me if you would like to do something.

Thanks and Blessing to all,

Elmer Miller
elmerhm@dejazzd.com

Women's Guild News

On Tuesday July 2nd we had our annual women's guild picnic at the Wagner's. Despite the rain storm we had that night we still had a fun time eating dinner, playing games, ice cream for desert. We also had a short meeting with the program by Dorothy Wagner and Clara Shakespeare.

The Annual Women's Guild Auction will be on Tuesday August 6th at 7pm. The proceeds will be divided half to Bethany and half to the church roof fund. Each contributor is asked to keep to a 3-bag limit. Very light refreshments (chips and pretzels) and drinks will be served. We hope to see a lot of people come out for a fun night for a good cause.

Here are the dates for people who are handing out bulletins for August: August 4th-Nancy, August 11th-Mayetta, August 18th-Eileen, August 25th- Teresa.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Join us for the Annual Ringgold Band Picnic & Concert August 3rd. More details can be found in the newsletter.

For the first time in a long time, we will be having a family potluck picnic and games for ALL ages following the outdoor worship service on August 4. Plan to join us for this afternoon of fun! We will not be holding our annual family day at Knoebels this year.

Sunday School will resume September 1st at 8:30 am with classes for 2 years old -100 years young!

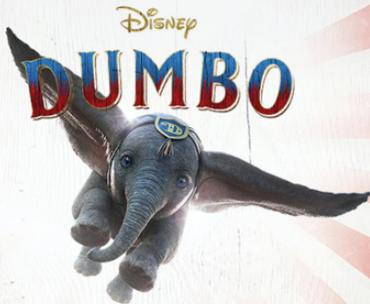
Our next meeting will be on August 5th at 7 pm.

Announcements from the Hill

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.

Community Movie Night



Complimentary Popcorn Provided
Bring Your Own Drink
Rain or Shine
St. John Hill UCC Picnic Grove
(rain: will be held inside the church)
Bring a Blanket/Comforter/Lawn Chair
Friends - Family - Community Welcome!!

Grab Bag Auction

The Annual Women's Guild Auction will be on Tuesday August 6th at 7pm. The proceeds will be divided half to Bethany and half to the church roof fund. Each contributor is asked to keep to a 3-bag limit.

Summer Worship

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am
through August 25
*Children ages 5-12 are dismissed during the worship service for Sunday School
(there is no 8:30 am Sunday School)*

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!

Family Potluck Picnic

Join us after worship on August 4th for a family potluck picnic and games. Bring a covered dish (main course, side, or desert) and your lawn chair or blanket and join in some food, fellowship and games after the outdoor worship service.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a Congregational meeting August 18th after worship service to discuss the needed roof repairs. We received several quotes to replace the roof and want to present the information to you to decide how we should proceed.



Ringgold Band Picnic

Saturday, August 3rd



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

Rain date for clean up



Saturday, August 3 @ 1:00 p.m.

Food Preparation

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

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

Help with picnic and food sales.

Refreshments available at 4:00 p.m. Music from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Monday, August 5 @ 6:00 p.m.

Close up buildings and trash removal.

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.

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