

THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

Website at www.greenhillpres.org

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TO:

January, 2018

Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Sunday Kids Sunday School – 10:45 AM

Tuesday Co-ed Bible Study – 12:00 PM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM
(resumes January 10)

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Monday, January 1 – New Year's Day

Saturday, January 6 – *Epiphany of the Lord*

January 7 – Communion; Installation/Ordination of Officers

Friday, January 12 – 7:30 AM Men's Bible & Breakfast/IHOP Fairfax

January 14 – Bring a Friend to Church Sunday; 11:45 AM Head Ushers Meeting

January 21 – 11:45 AM – Annual Congregational Meeting and Luncheon

January 28 – Snow Date for January 21 Meeting and Luncheon

From the Session – December 11, 2017

1. After many years, the installation of the new lock system on the boiler room door was completed.
2. Lights were replaced on all outdoor lamp posts in preparation for Christmas services.
3. Cemetery Superintendent, John Hartman, engaged The Delaware Center for Horticulture to do a study of the trees on the church grounds.
4. The Adopt-a-Child program sponsored by the Ministry of Caring produced 29 gifts collected at Green Hill to benefit a family with 5 children.
5. Rehearsals for the December 24 Christmas Pageant are going well and thanks go to Denise Snyder for organizing the event.
6. The following were elected for 2018:
 - i) Clerk of Session – Jane Reed
 - ii) Treasurer – Charles Reed
 - iii) Assistant Treasurers – JoAnna Ventresca, Sandy Fine, Margaret Marquardt
 - iv) Check Signers – Charles Reed, JoAnna Ventresca, Sandy Fine, Margaret Marquardt
7. The 2018 Green Hill Church Budget was approved by MOTION.

Jane O. Reed
Clerk of Session

Directory Changes

Please change the following member addresses:

Amaryah and Frank Bocchino
112 Marlbrooke Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348-1720

Ginine and Bill Maxwell
38051 N. El Indio Circle
Cave Creek, AZ 85331-8563

and add the following to the List of Friends:

Lisa, Jeffrey, and Kristin Somers
41 Ivy Road
Wilmington, DE 19806-2011
Phone: 215-817-4888



*Day by day
Day by day
Oh Dear Lord
Three things I pray
To see thee more clearly
Love thee more dearly
Follow thee more nearly
Day by day*

January 2018

Dear Friends,

Shortly before Christmas, we attended a production of the play *Godspell*. Our daughter was one of the actors and they all did a wonderful job. It was unusual because different actors played the role of Jesus, wearing a crown as a way to signify who was Jesus at various points in the play. Whichever character wore the crown—that was Jesus. They said this was one way to celebrate the image of the divine that is in each one of us.

As we start a new year, some of us will be making New Year's resolutions. It seems to me that one song from *Godspell* offers the perfect resolution for each one of us: *O Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day*. The song is actually a variation of a prayer of St. Richard of Chichester and can be found in the 1940 Episcopal Hymnal—as Ecclesiastes might say: *there is nothing new under the sun*. Perhaps each day we might celebrate God's image found within each one of us, and each of our neighbors and in so doing discover God very much present with us every single day.

Thank you for all the ways you follow our God more nearly in your worship and service. Happy New Year.

Blessings,

Tom

The Voice of God (Psalm 29)

Psalm 29:11 *“The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.”*

This psalm is part of the lectionary for the first Sunday in January; “The Baptism of the Lord” Sunday. It begins with an exhortation to give God his due and worship Him properly, *“and bow down before Him when He appears”*. The psalmist then describes the booming “Voice of Yahweh” before stating in verse 9b, “...everyone in His temple shouts “Glory to God!”.

Do you hear the voice in God in the rising sun of the morning, or in the brilliant autumn colors of the trees? Can you hear Him in the noise of a thunderstorm, or in the shaking of an earthquake, or even in the cry of a baby? How would you describe the voice of the Creator, the One who said, “Let there be light!”. And who also said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

We have all heard the phrase “the still small voice”; which describes an intimate, personal conversation. But what about the booming voice we hear while watching a thunderstorm? How would you describe that voice?

The 29th Psalm describes the voice this way: *“The voice of the Lord....*

<i>is heard over the seas, the glorious God thunders.”</i>	(v 3)
<i>is heard in all its might and majesty.”</i>	(v 4)
<i>breaks the cedars;”</i>	(v 5)
<i>makes the lightning flash;”</i>	(v 7)
<i>makes the desert shake;”</i>	(v 8)
<i>shakes the oaks and strips the leaves from the trees.”</i>	(v 9)

This is NOT the “one small voice” that we listen for in prayer; but rather the voice that makes and re-makes all creation. I am reminded of the hymn, “Morning Has Broken”.

*Morning has broken, like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing praise for the morning
Praise for them springing, fresh from the Word.*

*Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning!
Born of the One light – Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God’s re-creation of the new day!*

Words by Eleanor Farjeon 1931 (public domain)

The majestic, authoritative voice of God should give us strength everyday as He speaks through His power of creation. And in response, we praise His glorious name and proclaim; “Glory to God”.

Ref. *Psalms Vol. 2* edited by George Knight:
Biblical Ref. [TEV] *Today’s English Version* “The Good News Bible”

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Head Usher Meeting

There will be a very important meeting for all **Green Hill Head Ushers** on **January 14, 2018** immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will review scheduling, duties, and responsibilities. We will also have the Director of the Soufan Group, an international security firm from New York, to discuss some security procedures we might consider at Green Hill, especially in light of the recent tragedy in Texas. A light lunch will be served, and we hope all involved will attend.

Invite a Friend Sunday, January 14

On **Sunday January 14, 2018** we will celebrate **Invite a Friend to Church Sunday**. Studies



show that one of the most effective “tools” to encourage church growth is inviting a friend. Who do you know who is not currently involved in a church who might be fed here at Green Hill? Who

do you know who might bring us new and special talents? Invite them to join us in worship on January 14. Think of what Sunday worship would feel like if every member brought one additional person! Share the joy of Green Hill with someone you know.

January, 2018 Prayer Emphasis

Trust in the Lord

Let God's promises shine on your problems.

Corrie ten Boom

(1892-1983; Dutch Christian and activist who saved many Jews during the Holocaust; Israel named her Righteous Among the Nations in 1967; Author of *The Hiding Place*;))

Reminder about Chalice and Plate

The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord.--The Directory for Worship (PCUSA)

You may notice that we are placing a communion plate and chalice on the Communion Table on Sundays when we are not celebrating communion. We do so as a reminder of God's presence in our lives and the saving work of Jesus Christ. At Green Hill Church we celebrate the Lord's Supper on a monthly basis, but the plate and chalice remind us that this meal is a central part of our worship.



Christmas Pageant 2017



With Sympathy – Patti Davis Greer

It is with sadness that we report the death of **Patricia Ann (Davis) Greer**, 62, on December 9, 2017, after a long period of declining health. Patti was a member of Green Hill Church as were her parents, Lee R. Davis, Jr. and Charlotte (Cross) Davis. Patti joined Green Hill in 1969. Her husband of 26 years, Michael J. Greer, also a Green Hill member, predeceased her on June 20, 2017. Patti had worked as an insurance agent, retiring in 2014. She loved Motown music and relaxing on the beach. Patti was the mother of current Green Hill member, Jennifer Galvin, and also the niece of member, Jean (Cross) Larrimore. A visitation for family and friends was held at Doherty Funeral Home, Pike Creek, on Sunday, December 17, followed by a Funeral Service on Monday morning, December 18. She was laid to rest in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Bear, Delaware with her husband Mike who was an Army veteran. We extend our sincere sympathy to Patti's family, yet we rejoice that Patti is now with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

More Christmas Season Highlights



Photos by John Hartman

Women's Bible Study News

The women will return to their Bible Study about **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount on Wednesday afternoon, January 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM** in the Board Room. This week the women will be seeing the **video** which follows our homework discussion on Matthew 5:31-48 entitled *"You Have Heard that It Was Said..." Part 2*. These verses cover the difficult passages in the Sermon on the Mount about divorce, oaths, and restitution. In the video, the Bible teacher, Jen Wilkin, will share her thoughts about the week's verses. In this Study we see the video after we have done our homework and had a discussion. In this case, our discussion took place before our Winter Break on November 29. Women who plan to participate are encouraged to review their homework notes before seeing the video.



Christ's Sermon on the Mount
by Carl Bloch

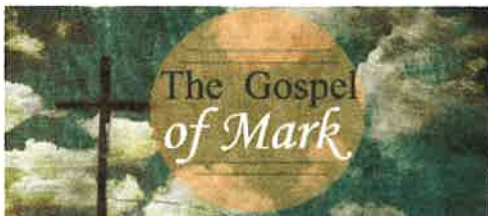
Men's Bible & Breakfast Friday, January 12, 2018



The **Men's Bible & Breakfast** continues, with its next meeting on **Friday, January 12, 2018**. This enthusiastic group of church men, led by Pastor Tom Speers, meets at the **IHOP Restaurant** (2001 Concord Pike) for a monthly breakfast and Bible study. The meetings are held at 7:30 AM until about 8:30 AM on the second Friday of the month, with the next sessions scheduled for January 12 and February 9, 2018. Men who have not yet attended are always welcome. Plan to participate in this time of learning, fellowship and food... and bring a friend!

Co-Ed Bible Study

The noon Tuesday Co-ed Bible Study, led by Pastor Tom Speers, will resume its study of the New Testament **Book of Mark on Tuesday, January 2, 2018**. The enthusiastic group meets for lunch and discussion in the Board Room from **noon until 1:00 PM every Tuesday**. The lively Bible Study group has progressed through several chapters of Mark who leaves us "breathless" with his speedy rendition of his Gospel. The group welcomes new members any time to learn and discuss.



Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Christmas Adopt-A-Child Program a Success



Thank you to those who so generously provided gifts in this year's project. We were able to bring smiles to the faces of 5 children through this program sponsored by the Ministry of Caring. Each child received 6 gifts. Special thanks to Gail Heath and Jen Galvin for delivering the packages.

Christmas Caroling and Poinsettias

On Saturday evening, December 16, Green Hill carolers participated in our 8th Annual Christmas Caroling Party. Holiday cheer was shared with members and friends of Green Hill who are unable to attend regular church services. Each of the individuals received a holiday gift that was provided by Green Hill's Craft Group. Many thanks go to Matt and Rita Rutherford for hosting a delicious and warming chili dinner after this event. Much fun was had by all.



Poinsettias were also delivered to an Assisted Living community following the Christmas Eve service. Thank you to those who donated their poinsettias so that others could enjoy them.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Tuesday, December 19th. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Gail Heath, Cathy Maxwell, Dan Dugan, and Kathy Dugan.**



We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers during November and December: **Allison Brokaw, Rita Rutherford, Maya Hirs, Jennifer Simmons, Gail Heath, Evelyn Williams, John Hartman and Tom Speers.**

The 2018 MOW schedule has been e-mailed to all deliverers and substitutes. It is also posted in the entry to the church office. The 2018 EDR schedule will be issued shortly.

For the Troops



A care package of 8 pounds of assorted nuts, 49 granola bars and over 2 dozen handmade cards made by our Sunday school kids were sent to the troops overseas on December 4th, hoping to make their Holiday a little bit brighter. Deacons send a big "thank you" to everyone who participated in this project.

December Special Offerings

The **Christmas Joy** offering is collected by Green Hill and other Presbyterian Churches (USA) for two equal purposes: to provide assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and to develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. We received this offering during our Sunday morning Christmas Eve service and are pleased to report that our congregation contributed **\$436.00** to Christmas Joy this year.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The 2017 recipient of our offering during the evening Christmas Eve candle lighting service was the Deacons' fund to purchase food items used to make our casseroles for Ministry of Caring's Emmanuel Dining Room (EDR). The very generous participants in this service contributed **\$1536.00** for this very important and worthwhile Green Hill mission project fund. A group of dedicated Green Hillers assembles 5 large pans with a nutritious casserole each month on the 19th day. Green Hill Church was one of the original participating churches when EDR was founded 38 years ago, in 1979.

Craft Group Reports Net Proceeds

The Green Hill Craft Group is pleased to report that their **Annual Craft Sale raised \$242.00** this year. The sale was held during the Christmas Luncheon on December 17. Several new shoppers, including choir members from Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church, enjoyed the sale and purchased items. Some of the more popular items included felt Christmas ornaments made by the Craft Group during their fall meetings, photo note cards hand made by Gail Heath, pot holders and kitchen towels by Margaret Marquardt, a tea cozy by Chandler Brown, and scarf and hat sets by Agnes Brown.

The Craft Group is also responsible for selling **bagged nuts** and net proceeds from that sale this year were **\$398.00**. The sale of bagged nuts during the fall is a long-standing Green Hill tradition run by the Craft Group. This year, eight pounds of these bagged nuts were also purchased and donated to the Deacons' Christmas goodie box which went to troops overseas.

We were informed of higher nut prices this year after we had already announced holding our sale prices flat with no price increase. This accounted for somewhat lower net nut proceeds this year. We recognize that a price increase for our popular bagged nuts may be necessary when we announce our sale during the summer, 2018.

The Craft Group thanks all of their craft and nut purchasers. We generated **\$640.00** in income in 2017 which will be used for worthy Green Hill and local community mission projects. During 2017 the Craft Group contributed over \$1300 to purchase our set of handbells.

New Bells Added

Green Hill Church is pleased and honored to accept an anonymous gift of a new set of **Cymbells®** which are rack mounted cast bronze bells played by hitting the bells with mallets. The Cymbells® are manufactured by our handbell supplier, Malmark, Inc. These bells greatly enhance our bell choirs' ability to bring wonderful bell music to our congregation. Attendees at the Sunday morning Christmas Eve service heard *"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"* played on the new set of Cymbells®.



January 2018 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Dan Dugan

Deacon of the Month Denise Snyder

Acolyte of the Month Roman Cincilla

Readers

January 7 - Kathy Dugan
January 14 - Guthrie Speers
January 21 - Matthew Rutherford
January 28 - Donna Oehling

Greeters

January 7 - Sue Makowski
January 14 - Amy Baun
January 21 - Gail Heath
January 28 - Megan Mahle

Refreshments

Evelyn Williams
January 21 - Fellowship Committee

Chancel Flowers

January 7 - Kathy & Dan Dugan
January 14 - Ellen & Stephen Grubbs
January 21 - Daurice & Robert Grubbs
January 28 - Megan Mahle & Jason Cincilla

Communion Servers January 7

Kathy Dugan and Charles Reed

Child Care

January 7 - Amy Baun
January 14 - Maya Hirs
January 21 - Bonnie Noszek
January 28 - Ava Hirs

Kids Sunday School Teacher

January 7 - Cathy Maxwell
January 14 - Ellen Grubbs
January 21 - Cathy Maxwell
January 28 - Ellen Grubbs

Meals On Wheels

January 1 - *No Delivery – New Year's Day*
January 2 - Maya Hirs and Jennifer Simmons
January 3 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
January 4 - Cathy Maxwell and Evelyn Williams
January 5 - Rita & Matt Rutherford

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Friday, January 19

Deacon – Gail Heath
Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
Cathy Maxwell

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Stephen Grubbs
16 Guthrie Speers
21 Tom Stevens
22 Melissa Stevens Howard
29 Nancy Otto

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Diane & Lance Shorter
- 50 years 2018
9 Chandler Brown & John Dearworth
29 Kathy & Dan Dugan

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 New Year's Day 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>2 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 2:00 PM NC Presbytery Mtg.</p>	<p>3 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>4 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:45 PM Trustees Mtg.</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of the Lord</p>
<p>7 Baptism of the Lord 9:45 AM Special Session Mtg. 10:00 AM Worship; Communion; Kids Sunday School; Ordination/Installation of Officers 11:45 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg.</p>	<p>8 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Session Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>9 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study</p>	<p>10 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>11 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>12 7:30 AM Men's Bible & Breakfast; IHOP; Fairfax 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Bring a Friend Sunday 11:45 AM Coffee & Conversation 11:45 AM Head Usher Mtg. 11:45 AM Deacons Mtg. 12:15 PM JuBELLation Ringers Practice</p>	<p>15 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>16 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 1:15 PM Green Hill Bronze Rehearsal</p>	<p>17 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>18 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>19 8:15 AM EDR Prep 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM Annual Business Congregational Mtg. and Lunch SPIRE DEADLINE</p>	<p>22 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>23 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 1:15 PM Green Hill Bronze Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 10:00 AM Craft Mtg. 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>25 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM Snow Date for 1/21 Mtg. 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg. 12:15 PM JuBELLation Ringers Practice</p>	<p>29 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>30 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 1:15 PM Green Hill Bronze Rehearsal</p>	<p>31 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>			