

THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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TO:

May, 2018

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Tuesday Co-Ed Bible Study – 12:00 PM

Sunday Kids Sunday School – 10:45 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, May 3 – *National Day of Prayer*

May 6 – Traditional Communion

Thursday, May 10 – *Ascension of the Lord*

Saturday, May 12 – Church Clean Up 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

May 13 – *Mother's Day*; Worship with Harpist Carole Smith

Friday, May 11 – Men's Bible Study and Breakfast; IHOP; Fairfax 7:30 AM

Tuesday, May 15 – 4:00 PM; NC Presbytery Meeting; Dover, DE

Friday, May 18 – Final Dinner Group of the Season

May 20 – *Pentecost*; Communion

May 20 – 4:30 PM Hymn Sing and Refreshments

May 27 – Worship with Bugler Amy Bland

Monday, May 28 – *Memorial Day*

From the Session –April 9, 2018

1. Our new Committee on Ministers & Congregations liaison to the Presbytery, Rev. Jenny Warren, joined us to instruct the Session and the Mission Study Committee.
2. The Deacons clothing drive will begin April 29 and will run through May 27.
3. Rev. Speers' inquiry class for interested new members on March 18 attracted eight people.
4. The Mission and Prayer Committee had enough money, after expenses, to purchase one latrine for the Presbytery sponsored project, discussed at the Breakfast.
5. The elevator passed its yearly inspection on April 3.

Jane O. Reed

Clerk of Session

Al-Anon Meetings at Green Hill

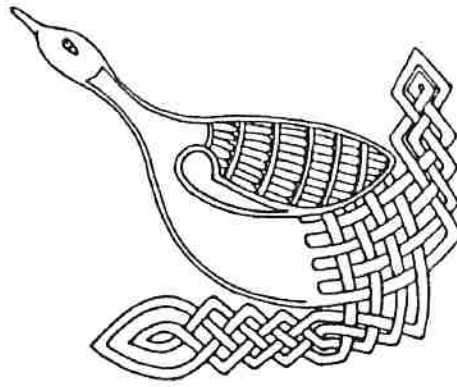
Members of Al-Anon learn to live happily regardless of whether the alcoholic is still drinking. They learn to cope with feeling angry, guilty, overwhelmed and alone. They learn that alcoholism is a disease, and not a disgrace. Sharing experience, strength and hope shows other members they are not alone. Participants learn to put the focus on themselves, and to reclaim their lives. Al-Anon is a powerful tool in the recovery process!



Al-Anon meets at Green Hill on Monday and Thursday 12 PM to 1 PM in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to take advantage of one or both of these meetings. For more information, please visit the website; www.delawarealanon.org

Mother's Day is May 13





May 2018

Dear Friends,

This past month I finally visited the Manufacturers' Sunday School at Hagley, the school that gave birth to Green Hill Presbyterian Church along with Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Saint Joseph on the Brandywine and Mount Salem Methodist Churches. Our original members claimed ancestral roots in Ireland and Scotland. They likely would have known the image of the wild goose which is pictured above. For Celtic peoples the phrase for the Holy Spirit translates as "Wild Goose." As John Eldredge explains: "The early Celtic Christians called the Holy Spirit the wild goose and the reason why is they knew that you cannot tame him."

The dove is another symbol of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove at his baptism. Noah sent out a dove from the ark and it returned with an olive branch which was a sign that the flood was over. The dove is thus a sign of peace because it showed Noah that the storm was over. Either way—the dove or the wild goose—the Spirit soars and like the wind it blows where it will. Henry Richard McFadyen wrote the words for a hymn we will sing this month:

*The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
Is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight.
And I am Thine! I rest in Thee.
Great Spirit, come, and rest in me.*

May 20 is Pentecost Sunday, the church's day to celebrate the Holy Spirit as we remember the gift of the Spirit, poured out on the disciples as they huddled in fear. It was like the sound of a violent wind—more like a wild goose than a dove—and it filled the house where the disciples were gathered. The Spirit gave them the ability to speak in ways that could be understood by everyone gathered in that city and the church was born. I pray that everyone of us might be open to the power of the Wild Goose so that we can follow the example of the first disciples, proclaiming God's deeds of power in ways that can be understood by all those who surround us.

Come, Holy Spirit! Come!

Tom.

All Things Bright and Beautiful (Psalm 104)

Psalm 104:1 ***“Praise the Lord, I tell myself; O Lord my God, how great you are!”***

Psalm 104 is a celebration of the comprehensive and majestic character of creation. It is a poem that evokes the wonderful order, symmetry and splendor of creation. It reminds me of the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”, whose refrain is *“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.”*

The psalm gives many examples of the great works of creation; animate things such as goats (verse 18), birds (verse 17), grass (verse 14) and lions (verse 21); as well as inanimate things such as stars (verse 2) clouds (verse 3) and mountains (verse 8). Psalm 104 is essentially a poetic abstract of God’s creation as found in Genesis. The summary of which is found in verse 24: ***“O Lord, what a variety of things you have made! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your creatures.”***

In verse 23, the psalmist notes that man is part of this creation and has a role to play; ***“Man goes forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening.”*** Realizing that we are part of God’s wonderful creation, and that we are His; I refer you to verses 33-34: ***“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will praise my God to my last breath. May He be pleased by all these thoughts about Him, for I rejoice in the Lord.”***

This psalm has been used historically on Pentecost; which may appear strange at first. After all, Psalm 104 appears generally to be about creation and providence, whereas Pentecost is about the gift of the Holy Spirit and the formation of the Church. However, the pieces come together in verse 30: ***“When you send your Spirit, new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth.”*** This verse is often used as a responsive reading during Pentecost worship services because it positions God’s gift of our physical being alongside the gift of our spiritual being; and reminds us of the renewing spirit of the Creator.

So I encourage you to read the psalm not only as a celebration of creation; but also as a reminder of the renewal and transformation that each day can bring. As you go about your daily activities, pause occasionally and observe the wonders of the world around; and bring to mind the last verse from the hymn “All Things Bright and Beautiful”; *“God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell - how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.”*

Ref: *“Psalms”* by James L. May: from the series
“Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching”

Bible references: (NLT) New Living Translation

Bruce Fine
Music Director

New Sunday Afternoon Event!



Have you ever wished that we would sing your favorite hymn? On **May 20 at 4:30 PM**, we will host a **HYMN SING** at the church. For forty-five minutes, we will sing hymns from either the Red or Blue Hymn books. Bruce will be on the organ and we will have refreshments afterwards. This is a great time to invite a friend to join us—no long sermon, only music and a closing prayer!

Church Spring Clean Up Day



Everyone please join the Trustees on **Saturday, May 12, 9:00 AM to noon** for a morning of **clean up inside the church and on the grounds**. Many important jobs will be accomplished by the volunteers, saving the church the need to hire contractors.

Many jobs are available! This clean-up is a great opportunity to work with other members, to serve the church we love, and to make our church and grounds look their very best for the warm season. Limited breakfast beverages and snacks will be provided.

We remind Green Hill parents of children and students that there are jobs both inside and outside for young people. Students may bring school volunteer paperwork to be signed.

We hope to see a good turnout for our spring Clean Up Day!

May Prayer Emphasis

Forgiveness*

Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.

Corrie ten Boom

* The Tuesday Co-Ed Bible Study is learning what scripture says about Forgiveness. Come join us! Co-Ed Bible Study meets Tuesday, 12 PM to 1 PM in the Board Room and is led by Rev. Tom Speers.

National Day of Prayer - Thursday May 3, 2018

History: The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the **first Thursday of every May**. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. Last year, all 50 state governors plus the governors of several U.S. territories signed similar proclamations.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER The Theme and Verse for 2018: Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY. In 2018, our theme will be **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon **Ephesians 4:3** which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, "*Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*" (NRSV)

"There is no great movement of God that has ever occurred that does not begin with the extraordinary prayer of God's people." Dr. Ronnie Floyd

The Prayer for 2018: This year's prayer is written by Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Senior Pastor, Cross Church in northwest Arkansas (First Baptist Church of Springdale). Please see the full text of the prayer at <http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/national-prayer>.

Flea Market 2018 Wrap Up

The **Flea Market** on Saturday, April 14, raised a total of **\$2521.04** for the general church operating fund this year. This was a banner year, setting a recent record for total sales! We had a long line of eager shoppers at the door when we opened at 9 AM including a couple who were first in line and had been there since before 8 AM! Everyone who participated in any capacity reported having fun and good fellowship. We had a sizeable group of volunteers, including some first-timers, for set up and on the day of the event. The Boutique, Bake Sale table, and the Green Hill Café operated and contributed to the day's total earnings. Leftover fabrics went to the Graceful Quilters at Grace Lutheran Church in Hockessin. Sunday Breakfast Mission collected general fleas and furniture for their Thrift Shop and for their men's, women's, and children's overnight facilities. Thank you to everyone who donated a Flea or to the Boutique, baked, set up on Thursday or Friday, worked on Saturday, helped clean up, or bought a wonderful treasure! And...it's never too soon to be thinking about your Flea and Boutique donations for next year.



Special Music during May



Carole Smith will be delighting us once again with her harp music on **Mother's Day Sunday, May 13**. This annual Mother's Day tradition is a favorite musical program at Green Hill.

Carole is a member of the Brandywine Harp Orchestra. You may learn more about that orchestra at their website, www.brandywineharps.com. She is a student of Janet Jackson Whitman and has been playing the harp since 1999. She owns two of the rather large and unwieldy instruments; a 38-string Triplet Eclipse lever harp, and a Salvi Diana Concert Grand pedal harp. In addition to her husband, Rick, and two sons, she has two harp music loving cats, Jake and Francis. Besides the harp, Carole's other passion is ice skating—she is a Silver Level Ice Dancer at the Skating Club of Wilmington. She is also a quilter since 1982.

Please welcome Carole Smith back to Green Hill on Mother's Day, May 13. Invite a friend to join you and enjoy her harp music!

A new tradition will begin this year as we honor our Veterans with a special piece of **bugle music** outside at the end of the worship service on **May 27** (weather permitting). We anticipate that this will be an especially moving acknowledgement of all veterans' service, particularly those who are buried in our

Green Hill Cemetery. **Amy Bland**, our versatile French horn player from Capitol Brass, will be our bugler on May 27.



Easter Season Special Offerings – Final Results



Our **Maundy Thursday** offering this year was designated by the Deacons and approved by Session for the **Mary Campbell Center**, which provides home and heart to children and adults with disabilities. The 50,000 square foot facility on Weldin Road in Wilmington has been in operation since 1976. Generous Green Hill members and friends contributed **\$300.00** to the Mary Campbell Center on March 29.

The **One Great Hour of Sharing** special offering was collected on **Easter Sunday, April 1**. One Great Hour of Sharing is a Christian effort to empower, provide water, supply food, and give relief from disasters. The Presbyterian Church (USA) ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self Development of People. Members of the Green Hill congregation contributed **\$487.15** to the One Great Hour of Sharing 2018 campaign. This total included contributions from some of the children in Kids Sunday School who filled "fish banks" with coins.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Mission

MANNA Worldwide

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!

As always, I'm thankful for your prayers and partnership in ministry. I'll be traveling quite a bit for the next four months, and would appreciate your prayers for our ministries in Romania and Greece. I will be embarking on a brand new ministry in South Africa in September which is part of an extended partnership for MANNA with another agency.

Father's House: We are excited to welcome two baby boys into our MANNA Children's Home in Campulung, Romania. We now have five baby girls and three baby boys in our care. We will be visiting this ministry in July and August.



Keri Kondracki

Our supported Missionary with MANNA Worldwide

Keri's new April and May 2018 Newsletter is posted on the Missions Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

Baby Bottle Benefit



The main fundraiser for **A Door of Hope** Christian Pregnancy Centers in Wilmington, Newark, and Middletown is the **Baby Bottle Benefit**. This year the campaign (with a slight modification to the name from previous years) kicked off on April 22 and will run through **Sunday, May 20**. Baby bottles are available on a table in the sanctuary for you to take and fill with coins, cash, or checks. Please make checks payable to Green Hill Church. Last year, A Door of Hope raised \$80,000 for their efforts with the pregnant women who find their way to their locations. The money provided practical resources, education, and long-term mentoring relationships; all with the hope of the gospel.

Tuesday Co-Ed Bible Study

Stories of Forgiveness



Our Tuesday Bible Study meets during May at **12 noon**. (The group will not meet on May 8.) We meet for one hour; from noon to 1:00 PM. Bring your lunch as we study God's word.

We are focusing on biblical stories of forgiveness and how those stories speak to us today. We have had lively learning sessions during April and look forward to continuing the study of Forgiveness during May. The group will meet on May 29 and then take a summer break resuming in September.

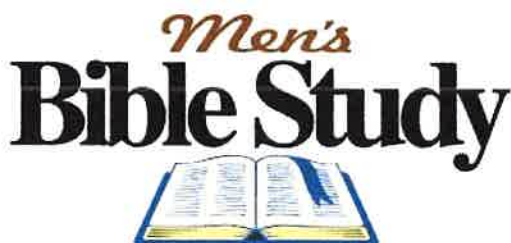
Women's Bible Study News

The Women's Bible Study will conclude its study of the New Testament Book of James on Wednesday, May 23. This study is an in-depth look at the New Testament Book of **James**. The author of our Study Guide is Denise J. Hughes, who has written the entire *Word Writers* series of Biblical Study Books. Our active group in Women's Bible Study welcomes new members any time, but especially when a new study begins in the fall. We meet for one hour on Wednesday afternoons from **5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. in the church Board Room**. If you want more information about future Women's studies, please contact Rita Rutherford or Evelyn Williams.

The Women's Bible Study has had good success with a **Summer Book Club** in which participants read the selected Christian book on their own during the summer months for group discussion when Women's Bible Study resumes. We plan to select a book which also has been made into a movie which we can show for a Co-Ed movie night in the fall. Stay tuned to hear about our selection.



Men's Bible & Breakfast Friday, May 11, 2018



The **Men's Bible & Breakfast** continues, with its next meeting on **Friday, May 11, 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. **The May meeting will be the final one of the season.** Men's Bible & Breakfast will resume on September 14. Men who have not yet attended are always welcome. Plan to participate in this time of learning, fellowship and food...and bring a friend!

Signs of Serving

From the Green Hill Deacons



Spring Clothing Drive Runs through May 27th



The Deacons are sponsoring their **annual spring clothing drive**. We are off to a great start. Please continue your contributions of

clean clothing and coats for all ages. Donations will be given to the **Ministry of Caring** in Wilmington. Please bring your **spring and summer clothes** and place them in the corner vestibule in Fellowship Hall. Donations will be accepted **through May 27**. Please contact Ava Hirs with any questions at 528-1811.

Update on the Generous Support for the Hope Tote Project

“Thank you” to all who donated personal care items to fill Hope Totes for distribution by the Sunday Breakfast Mission on Easter

Sunday, April 1. 20 Totes were donated along with a big bag containing extra items to help stock SBM’s supplies, plus a generous cash contribution.



EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for **EDR** on Thursday, April 19. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Gail Heath, Herb Maar, Cathy Maxwell, and Kathy Dugan**.

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers in April. They were: **Tom Speers, Maya Hirs, Jennifer Simmons, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, Kathy Dugan, Evelyn Williams, and John Hartman**.

The schedules for EDR and MOW are posted in the entry to the church office. If you are interested in participating in either of these projects, please contact Gail Heath at 528-2034.

LOOKING FORWARD

The Deacons will **honor the ladies** of the church with a special recognition during our worship service on **Mother’s Day, May 13**.

We continue to collect **nonperishable food items** to support the food pantry at **Sunday Breakfast Mission**. Drop off your items anytime in the basket located at the back of the sanctuary. *During April we contributed three unopened packages of hot dog rolls left over from the Flea Market Café on April 14 and two cases of canned goods from the bin in the sanctuary.*

May 2018 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Stephen Grubbs

Deacon of the Month Denise Snyder

Acolyte of the Month Roman Cincilla

Readers

May 6 - Bonnie Noszek
May 13 - Allison Brokaw
May 20 - Kathy Dugan
May 27 - Guthrie Speers

Greeters

May 6 - Ranie Good
May 13 - Sue Makowski
May 20 - Amy Baun
May 27 - Gail Heath

Refreshments Jane Reed

May 20 - New Members Reception

Chancel Flowers

May 6 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
May 13 - Bonnie and Joseph Noszek
May 20 - Earl Williams
May 27 - James and John Montgomery

Communion Servers

May 6 - Allison Brokaw– Captain
Charles Reed
Herbert Maar
Robert Maxwell
Rob Brokaw
May 20 - Kathy Dugan and JoAnna Ventresca

Child Care

May 6 - Kelly Green
May 13 - Melanie Venet
May 20 - Cathy Maxwell
May 27 - Melanie Venet

Kids Sunday School Teacher

May 6 - Ellen Grubbs
May 13 - Cathy Maxwell
May 20 - Ellen Grubbs
May 27 - Cathy Maxwell

Meals On Wheels

May 21 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
May 22 - Maya Hirs and Jennifer Simmons
May 23 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
May 24 - Cathy Maxwell and Evelyn Williams
May 25 - Rita & Matt Rutherford

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Saturday, May 19

Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
– Cathy Maxwell
– Evelyn Williams

Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Denise Snyder
4 Susan Barrowman
Ellen Stevens
Blaise Venet
5 Chris Murphy
8 Sahler Applegate
16 Victor Cincilla
21 Amanda Schuckert
Blakely Bocchino
25 Rita Rutherford
26 Stuart Beattie

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

8 Donna and Mark Oehling

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 6:30 PM JuBELLation Practice	<i>2</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM GH Brass Practice 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>3 National Day of Prayer</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>4</i> 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i> 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	<i>7</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>8</i> 6:30 PM JuBELLation Practice	<i>9</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM GH Brass Practice 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>10 Ascension of the Lord</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>11</i> 7:30 AM Men's Bible & Breakfast; IHOP; Fairfax 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	<i>12</i> 9:00 AM—12:00 PM Church Clean Up
<i>13 Mother's Day</i> 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Harpist; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	<i>14</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM Session Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>15</i> 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 4:00 PM New Castle Presbytery Mtg.; Dover 6:30 PM JuBELLation Practice	<i>16</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM GH Brass Practice 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>17</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:45 PM Trustees Mtg.	<i>18</i> 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg. Dinner Group	<i>19</i> 8:15 AM EDR Prep.
<i>20 Pentecost</i> 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Communion; New Members; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM New Members Reception 4:00 PM Hymn Sing	<i>21</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>22</i> 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 6:30 PM JuBELLation Practice	<i>23</i> 10:00 AM Craft Mtg. 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM GH Brass Practice 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>24</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.	<i>25</i> 10:00 AM Women's AA Mtg. 6:30 PM AA Mtg.	<i>26</i>
<i>27 Trinity Sunday</i> 9:30 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM Worship; Bugler; Kids Sunday School 11:30 AM Coffee & Conversation	<i>28 Memorial Day</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg. 5:00 PM AA Mtg. 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>29</i> 12:00 PM Co-Ed Bible Study 6:30 PM JuBELLation Practice	<i>30</i> 5:00 PM GH Brass Practice 6:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00 PM AA Mtg.	<i>31</i> 12:00 PM AI-Anon Mtg.		