

Around the Hill

Round Hill Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, PA

Vol 3 No 4

November 2016



From the Pastor's Pen...

As I write this column, I am getting ready to leave for my annual journey to the national meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. The meeting is in San Antonio this year, after being held in Atlanta, San Diego, and Baltimore in previous years, but honestly, the location doesn't make that much difference. The conference is very much the same, wherever it is held. In a given year, I will see many of the same people, including friends of very long standing, listen to papers given on all sorts of topics, browse through the book displays of dozens of academic publishers, and have several interesting conversations. I haven't missed one since I started attending back in 1997.

Why do I go? The people and conversations mentioned above are surely part of it. But I go to this conference as part of the continuing education allowance that the church generously provides me, and so it is not, first and foremost, a social occasion. On the other hand, it might not be immediately obvious how the things I learn at SBL might further my ministry here at RHPC—and you should probably be thankful for that! I'm guessing that no one is clamoring for a sermon series or adult Sunday School class based on, to choose one paper I might be hearing this week, "New Insights on the Iron IIB in the Shephelah: The View from Tel es-Safi/Gath." It would be safe to say that the Bible Geek level at this meeting is fairly high.

So there may not be quite the sort of direct influence on my pastoral work that, say, a conference on preaching might have. But I think, at root, what drives me to return, year after year, to SBL is the opportunity it always offers to stretch myself, to poke into new areas of study and knowledge and to hear people who have deeply considered and understood these things share their insight. I may not mention the impact of the excavations at Tel es-Safi on our understanding of ancient Israel directly in a sermon, but I will be a

better preacher for having exercised my mind to comprehend their importance.

This, I think, is a source of improvement that is available for everyone, not just Bible Geeks with a continuing education allowance and an SBL membership. We are all called, in the words of Moses from Deuteronomy, to "love the Lord your God with all your mind," and I believe that everything we do to learn, to expand our knowledge, to stretch ourselves, honors the God who gave us these minds to use. So, in this time of year when people start to think about New Year's resolutions, I encourage you to find some way to stretch your mind over the coming year. Take up a new musical instrument...learn a new language...read a book on a topic you know nothing about...sign up for a cooking class...go to an opera, or an art museum, or a lecture, or a symphony...it doesn't really matter what it is: as long as it's something new to you, and you make a legitimate effort to learn something about it, it will expand and sharpen your mind, and make you better able to appreciate all that God has done in the world. Thus, we love the Lord our God with all our mind, and prepare ourselves to serve him for another year.

~ Matt



Round Hill Church Christmas Party

Come join us for a covered dish luncheon on Sunday, Dec. 11th after worship (about 11:45 am) in the Fellowship Hall. If you can bring a covered dish, please do, but don't let that stop you from joining us there is always lots of food. Meats and beverages will be provided. After the meal, we will have some time to celebrate Christmas together. Hope you can come join us. Let me know if you may need a ride. (Linda Leggett 412-384-4175)
~Fellowship Group

Annual Congregation and Corporation Meeting

The annual Congregation and Corporation meeting will be held directly after worship on Sunday, December 18th. Election of officers, At-large members for the 2017 Nominating Committee and approval of the pastor's terms of call.

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee is very pleased to announce that we have completed our mission.

Elders, Deacons and Trustee for the Class of 2019, officers and financial officials have been contacted and they have agreed to serve.

The experience this year was one of joy and inspiration within the committee as we truly felt God's spirit among us as we contacted our candidates.

We want to thank all who accepted positions and may God bless them and our church as they begin their service. ~ Gayle Larcinese

2016 Nominating Committee:

Pat Conley	Jacquelyn Karner
Eileen Russell	Bob Schuille
Janice Sherman	Toni Stith
Howard Sutton	

Can You Help?

The Round Hill Deacons would like to send cards to armed services personnel who have connections with Round Hill Church. If you know names and addresses, we would appreciate having them. Contact any Deacon or call the Church Office.

~ Bill Harchelroad

Session Notes

In August through October, the Session had acted to designate the proceeds of the Country Fair to go to the Mission Fund since the Mission Fund Trip has a substantial balance.

- Membership received new members Carol Hill and Phil Sorrentino. Welcome!
- Instruction reported: a successful VBS week with 47 children attending and more than 35 volunteers helping and collecting \$150 to be sent to Heifer Intl in addition to the start of a new Sunday morning group organized by Rev. Stith and some who attended the Inquirers Class.
- Fellowship reported the luncheon held during the visit of Tim, Kim, and their children, one of the missionary couples we support, and thanked those who helped make the Country Fair a success with proceeds over \$5,000.

- Outreach reported that 20 bags were collected Latin America Childcare's Back-to-School effort and that the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Campaign will take place.
- Worship has been preparing for the Advent Season and Christmas.
- Personnel is in the process of review of the staff. Session also received updates from the Vision Team and the Nominating Committee.

Please continue to pray for the Elders, Deacons, and Trustees and Pastor Stith, as they lead Round Hill. Please feel free to talk to any elder about any questions or concern you may have. Your feedback is an important line of communication. The Elders may not be able to meet every concern of every person, but they do need to know what they are. ~Bob Leggett

Opportunities for Youth at Round Hill Presbyterian Church

Join in the youth festivities at Round Hill Presbyterian Church. We have Sunday school classes on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 am in the Christian Education building for all children in grades K-12. Light refreshments and fellowship are before class at 9:15 am. There are two classes: Elementary Sunday School for grades K-5 and Youth Sunday School for grades 6-12. We learn about the Bible and lead Christian devotions. Group prayer concludes every Sunday school class.

Recharge Youth group (for students in grades 6-12) is held on Wednesday nights after the Recharge service. The Recharge service is from 6:00-6:30 pm, followed by a meal together. Youth fellowship time lasts until 7:30 pm and focuses on fun and opportunities for teens to participate in the mission of the church, grow in their Christian faith, and be an example of God's Word in the world.

Each month, there is a special event just for the Recharge Youth Group! In September, they had fun mini-golfing together. In October, they helped to package 30,000 meals for the 'Stop Hunger Now' event. Here are some of the upcoming events:

November 19 – Homeless & Hungry (high-school & college only)
December 10 - Help at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank
December 18 – Progressive Dinner
January 29 – Souper Bowl of Caring Service Project
February 5 – Super Bowl party
February 24-25 - EPiC youth retreat in Ohio
April 12-13 – 30 Hour Famine
May - Round Hill Road Recharge

If you are interested in joining or supporting our Recharge Youth Group or Sunday School class, please contact Toni Stith at tonistith27@yahoo.com or (412) 405-9738 or the church office at rhpcoffice@comcast.net. If you have ideas for our youth, please share your ideas with us, too. ~ Toni

Reach Mission Trip

Is there anyone interested in going on a mission trip to a Reach workcamp next summer? You will need to have finished 6th grade at the end of the school year or be older or be an adult. We are always looking for adults to go with us. Adults can work on the sites with the work campers, volunteer to help with tasks around the school or be troubleshooters which are skilled helpers that assist at the worksites.

We haven't picked a specific camp or date yet because we need input from those interested in going.

For more information, or to express interest see Rich Jones, Janice Turek or Bob Leggett. You may also check out the Reach website (reachmissiontrips.org) to get an idea of what a week is like. It's a great week of fun, fellowship, worship and most of all, serving.
~Bob Leggett

Online Giving Now Available

You may now give online at Round Hill's website (roundhillchurch.org). Go to the "Donations" page and follow the instructions. Any donations made through this page will automatically go to the General Fund. Unless otherwise specified in the special instructions section at the checkout.

You may use your credit or debit card or if you have one, a PayPal account. The church is charged a small transaction fee so if your donation is less than \$25, we would prefer that you make your donation by check or cash to receive the most benefit for the donation. You may also make your monthly donation a recurring one. We offer this as a convenience to those wishing to support Round Hill or any of our causes.

Country Fair Recap



kids. Our own congregation donated items for the flea

God blessed us with good weather, crowds, fellowship and even a beautiful rainbow. Many thanks to all the teams who worked diligently preparing this event, including the finance team for arranging for credit card sales. For the first time, we offered rented space to local crafters who reported success and requested that they be invited back next year. We offered crafting activities and games for the

market, crafts, bake and country store sales. Joy Simon was available to snap a family portrait. Rubbie Greenawald provided entertainment. And, voter registration representatives were available. Topping off the event was a chicken and biscuits dinner, with a limited amount of cabbage roll dinners also available. We served approximately 135 dinners. The teams will be comparing their observations and making notes for any adjustments for next year's event. Final results are still being tabulated, as additional flea market sales are finalized, but current records place proceeds at approximately \$5,300! These funds will be available for the missions team to distribute as God guides them.

Thanks again to all of the workers for this event. Mark your calendars for next year: Saturday, October 7, 2017.
~ Lisa Wagner



(Pictured below left: Hay toss)

Country Fair Games Recap

The beautiful weather cooperated nicely for the games this year as you can see in our pictures. (Pictured left: sack race)

And THE WINNER IS!!



The winner of the scarecrow building contest is: Savana, built by the team of Brooke McGrew and Pap Howard McGrew. Judged on a total score of the following categories: originality, best use of materials, and theme.

LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY

*Once again the Holy season
Comes to tell of God above...
Who through the birth of Baby Jesus
Sent to us His utmost love.*

*Jesus, God's own Son, born lowly
His love to show – "Twas God in Man"
Came to take our sins upon Him
Salvation sweet – His gift in hand.*

*The night was sweet, with angels singing,
Judean hill rang with their joy...
Stars filled the night, and one shone brightest
Guiding wise men to the Baby Boy!
~ Molly Bowen*

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS

December 11	RHPC Christmas Dinner-After the 10:30Worship service
December 18	Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation—after the 10:30 Worship service
December 24	Christmas Eve Services—7:00 PM and 11 PM
December 25	Christmas Day Service - 10: 00 AM

Merry
Christmas

For information about activities and events at Round Hill, call (412) 384-5889 weekday mornings
Or check online at www.roundhillchurch.org
and/or
[Facebook.com/RoundHillChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RoundHillChurch)

Around the Hill, Volume 3, Number 4
Please submit material for future issues to:
Karen Welsh, Editor
kswelsh1@gmail.com or
Linda Leggett,
News-Wrangler-In-Chief