

# Around the Hill

Round Hill Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth PA

Vol 2, No 2

July, 2015



## *From the Pastor's Pen...*

In the wake of the Supreme Court's late June decision extending the right to civil marriage to same-sex couples, I was thinking that this installment of *From the Pastor's Pen* would probably focus on that decision, on its likely impact on churches like ours, and on what our response would need to be. That was the plan, and I assure you, the session and I are discussing these matters and will have a response in due time. But something else—or rather a series of things—happened that preempted this space. None of these things in and of themselves might seem all that important, but, to me at least, the cumulative effect was eye-opening.

First item: On Wednesday morning, July 1, I was running with my team at cross country practice when I realized that I had been out for runs in three different states (in Florida with Bill Leggett during General Assembly, in Illinois with my brother-in-law while on a quick visit, and home in Pennsylvania) in less than a week. What's more, it didn't initially seem like all that big of a deal to have done so. But when I considered how, for example, my great-grandparents would have reacted to such an itinerary, I was struck by just how amazing our ability to travel long distances in short times is—we routinely make trips that would be the stuff of science fiction or of sheer miracle for the vast majority of people who have ever lived on the earth.

Second item: Later that same day, after seeing my wife and daughter off on another one of those miraculous trips—a flight to Switzerland—I discovered that certain vital supplies for the trip had been inadvertently left behind on the kitchen table. It was at least a mild disaster—or so it could have been. With the aid of the internet and FedEx, though, I was able, in less than 45 minutes, to have the items packaged and sent off to Switzerland on a plane leaving that same night. They nearly beat Toni and Mayim to their hostel! As I walked out of the FedEx store, the chorus of a Paul Simon song from 1986 called *Boy in the Bubble* started running through my head: "These are the days of miracle and wonder..."

Third item: A couple of days later, as I talked by phone with my uncle in Casper, Wyoming (and the fact that I can do that is, in itself, pretty amazing when you think about it), he mentioned that he had been shopping at 11:00 in the evening, and picked up a nice, ripe papaya. Amusingly, I think that's what made it all click together in my head: That a man in Wyoming can, at 11:00 at night, buy a papaya, which grows at least 2,000 miles away, and consider it a routine bit of shopping is proof positive that we do, in fact, live in the days of miracle and wonder, when any number of things that were undreamt of even when that song was written are now utterly commonplace (the internet, to give one example).

You can add your own items and experiences to the list with no difficulty, I imagine,

*(cont. on pg. 2)*

*Pastor's Pen, cont.*

from medicine to communications to engineering and many more. Living when and where we do is a privilege. There are, to be sure, new and astonishing problems that arise along with the miracles and wonders—as how could there not be, since we're still human beings? But to focus only or even mostly on those problems is, I would say, to forget just who it is who performs and provides the miracles and wonders. It is by the grace and mercy of the Lord God that we have been born at such a wondrous time in history. It is according to his plan that this history will continue to unfold. Whatever challenges arise will not and cannot derail his agenda for salvation and blessing. The miracles and wonders of this age, and of any age, are reminders of his sovereign rule, and call us to live lives of joyful thanksgiving.

### **Help us help you**

If someone is in the hospital please call the church office (412) 384-5889 to inform Pastor Matt or the Deacons. Hospitals generally are prevented by privacy laws from informing churches when a person is hospitalized.

### **Country Fair**

The RHPC Country Fair, supporting youth mission trips, will be held on Saturday, October 3. If you are interested in making craft items, helping with any of the various activities, or otherwise contributing to this great event, please contact Lisa Wagner.

*For information about activities and events at Round Hill call (412) 384-5889 weekday mornings or check online at*

[www.roundhillchurch.org](http://www.roundhillchurch.org)

*and*

[Facebook.com/RoundHillChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RoundHillChurch)



## **General Assembly Report**

Rev. Stith and elders Bill and Bob Leggett served as commissioners from Round Hill to the 35<sup>th</sup> EPC General Assembly in Orlando from June 24 to 27. It is a great experience to gather with fellow Christians from across the country for a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, learning, and a little bit of business. Wednesday and Thursday mornings began with Thom Rainer presenting the Leadership Institute related to four keys to vitality in the church. The business sessions each day began with a worship service and each person reporting began their presentation with prayer. The items of business were election of Mike Moses as moderator, move of the EPC offices from Michigan to Orlando by the end of 2016, procedure to commission non-ordained missionaries to lead the Sacraments on the mission field, and the reception and vote on recommendations from the committees of the EPC. If you go to [www.epc.org](http://www.epc.org) and find the 35<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, you can see most of the business items.

Each day we had the opportunity to be part of a network lunch session on a large variety of topics. Each evening we gathered for worship. Perhaps the most impressive part of the General Assembly happens on Thursday evening when, during worship, those who are going out as missionaries are commissioned with their families by their side. One question they are asked is, “Are you willing to be a martyr for the Gospel?” With their spouses and children beside them, they don’t hesitate to say “Yes.”

As an elder, going to General Assembly is an experience of which you should take advantage. If you have any questions about this year’s GA, talk with Matt, Bill, or Bob.

*-Bob Leggett*



### **Sunday Fun Outing**

Join us for some fun after church on Sunday, Aug. 9 at Copperhead Canyon Miniature Golf Family Funscape at Route 51 and Hutchinson Road. (Just across 51 from the Round Hill Road extension).

We'll meet at noon to play mini-golf or do the ropes course, then have a picnic lunch in their pavilion. Cost is \$6.00 per person (includes one activity & lunch). For more information talk to Linda Leggett or Bill Leggett.



### **Coming Soon to a Website Near You...**

If you notice Matt doing something with his cell phone in the pulpit on Sunday mornings, don't worry—he's not checking his email or changing his fantasy football lineup. The phone is being used as a recording device that will enable us to post audio tracks of the weekly scripture lessons and sermons on the church website.

Posting these clips will give members and friends who are either traveling or unable to be in worship on a given Sunday a way to stay connected to the worship life of RHPC, and will also offer potential visitors a taste of our worship experience.

The sermon files will be available to anyone with an internet connection, on computers, tablets, or smart phones, and will be available for both streaming and download.

This feature should launch within a couple of weeks, so keep checking [www.roundhillchurch.org](http://www.roundhillchurch.org)!

*Around the Hill*, Volume 2, Number 2

Please submit material for future issues to:

Rev. Matt Stith, editor

Linda Leggett, news-wrangler in chief

## Upcoming Events

July 13-17	“God’s All-Star Champions” Vacation Bible School 9:00 AM—12:00 Noon
July 19-25	REACH Youth Mission Trip, Vassar MI Our congregation is asked to pray for the trip especially on Sunday the 19th.
July 27	Food Pantry Distribution; Clothes Closet
August 2-8	EFPCA Camp Crestfield
August 5	Bob & Joanne Boback’s 65th Wedding Anniversary
August 9	Miniature Golf Outing, 12:00 Noon (see pg. 3)
August 28	Comedian Jeanne Robertson @ Greensburg Palace Theatre (see poster in CE bldg. for details)
September 10	Clothes Closet
September 13	Fall Worship Schedule resumes: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Also, RHPC will lead the worship service at Redstone Highlands-North Huntingdon, 2:30 PM.
September 16	Wednesday Night Recharge resumes: 6:30 worship, dinner and fellowship following
September 24	Food Pantry Distribution, Clothes Closet
September 25-26	Presbytery of the Alleghenies Meeting
October 3	Country Fair (see pg. 2). 9:00 AM—3:00 PM