January & February 2019 Volume 19 No. 1

Chestnut Hill Views

From the Pastor's Desk

Note from the Pastor:

Greetings all!

It is hard to believe we are looking at a brand-new calendar year. The calendar turns faster each year, it seems. Sometimes though, even when we don't want it to, it just does. Amid all the chaos and joy that comes with Christmas each year, I wonder if we really stop to think about what it truly means to accept the Christ child into our hearts. We spend so much time trying to find the perfect tree, the perfect gift for our most precious loved one, and the perfect turkey or ham for our family dinner. But, have we ever thought of what a perfect gift we received that night more than two thousand years ago? Do we ever take the time to consider what that gift truly means for us today?

Yes, the calendar has turned, and it is a brand-new calendar year and we have a chance to start things anew, to look at where we have been and what we have to look forward to in this New Year. I am praying that the excitement and glow of receiving the Christ child has not faded into the past too much.

As we move into this new year, we have some new things in worship to help us engage our hearts each week as we worship together. There are plans in the works to bring new ideas and missions to our work of service. The Council is moving toward freshening up a few things in our governance. There are so many new and exciting things happening! A word of caution though, let's not all get caught up in the work around here that we forget that there are those in these deep, dark winter nights that need help and could use a hand in seeing what we see. Some of what we are doing behind the scenes is to help us reach out to those who need it.

May God bless our work and each person this New Year so that we can find the ways to show others the love of God in Christ.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Christian

Conference Happenings:

Vitality Days: There is still room and opportunity for you to represent Chestnut Hill Church as part of the Conference sponsored Workshops addressing our vitality as a community of faith. All dates are on a Saturday, will be held at Jordan UCC in Trexlertown (right on Rte.309), and run from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The dates and topics are:

Mar 23: Evangelism
May 18: Renewal

New Training Requirements for Authorized Ministers: Beginning in 2019, authorized ministers are now required to participate in annual continuing education and specific training to stay up to date on those things that are important to effective ministry. As such, Pastor Christian will be participating in these training and education requirements. If there is any type of specific training that you feel would be important to our life together in ministry, let Pastor Christian know and he will look into participating in those types of trainings.

Thrivent Choice Program: Chestnut Hill United Church of Christ is now enrolled in Thrivent Choice®. Thrivent Choice is a member-advised program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars to Chestnut Hill Church in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic deposit into our account. Those funds may be used to carry out the religious, charitable or educational purposes without restriction. If you are a member of Thrivent Choice and would like to make your choice dollars work for the church, please make sure to select Chestnut Hill Church from the online catalog and help us to build up funds through this program.

Bulletin Sponsorship: Did you know that the weekly bulletins can be sponsored to help defray the cost of printing? There is an opportunity for you to sponsor a bulletin to help out the church and also honor a special day or special someone in your life. There is a sheet in the lower narthex to sign up to sponsor our weekly bulletins. The cost to sponsor the weekly bulletins is $10 per Sunday and this contribution helps us to cover the cost of paper and toner to print the bulletins.

Creyer Annual Christmas Gathering Rescheduled:

As many of you know, Pastor Christian and Stephanie had to postpone their annual Christmas Fellowship Gathering due to family emergencies. The gathering has been rescheduled for January 19 from 12 to 4 PM with a snow date of January 26. Come out and join the Creyer's as we gather in fellowship and remember the joy of Christmas together.

Intro to the Bible Workshop III: Our next Introduction to the Bible Workshop will be on February 3, after worship. Snow date of February 10, if necessary. The last two workshops covered introducing us to the things in our Bibles that may be of use for our personal study and to learn a little bit about how we got the Bible. This third session, we will continue our study of John 3:1-12, by discovering some more about the culture and historical context of the story and when it was written. We will also spend a little bit of time discovering something about our Christian history, all of which helps us to understand how we interpret those words for us today. Come join us even if you have not attended the other workshops!

Annual Church Meeting: At the annual meeting we will elect new council members, review the annual reports and the financial health of the congregation. We encourage all those who lead a group to submit your annual report for 2018 to Pat Snyder by February 1st. Hopefully the annual meeting can be schedule in February or March.

Congregation Corner : there will be no congregation corner members for January and February. Congregation corner will hopefully return for March and April, just in time for Spring!

Bible Trivia:

From *Bible Puzzles, Quizzes & Brain Twisters: The BIG FUN variety collection* all answers are listed on page ___7_.

Echoes of the Bible: Many quotes and phrases commonly used today in conversation and in literature are from the Bible. How many can you identify? Name the speaker or writer; and context.

1. "The greatest of these is love."

   _____

2. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

   _____

3. "The Lord is my shepherd."

   _____

4. "Behold the man!"

   _____

5. "Let my people go!"

   _____

6. "Blessed art thou among women."

   _____

7. "Whither thou goest, I will go."

   _____

8. “Do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

   _____

9. "How do you know you aren't here for such a time as this?"

   _____

10. "You are bone of my bones, flesh of my flesh."

    _____

11. "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"

    _____

12. "Feed my sheep."

    _____

Who am I ?

Each month Stephanie will be "interviewing" one of our members in an effort to get to know everyone at Chestnut Hill. As part of that process, Stephanie will also write up a "story" of that person's life for the newsletter. Let's see how much you know about your fellow Chestnut Hill family members. Can you guess who our "interviewees" are for November & December?

November Congregation Corner Member:

A warm fall greeting to all of my friends and family at Chestnut Hill! It is funny that I was chosen for the month of November, Autumn is my favorite time of the year. I have been a member of CHC for my entire life. Church was always very important in my family as I was growing up as a child, and I have continued my faithfulness as an adult. I actively participate in many things that are going on at church. I do have 2 favorite Bible passages and they are Psalm 121 & Philippians 4:13. I have many favorite hymns with one being Jesus Savior, Pilot me which was arranged differently than the traditional version by a local musician. The best memories I have of church are of the Christmas Eve services. Jesus is the one person from the Bible that I would like to meet, however to ask him one question would be difficult, I have so many to ask.

My favorite past times are looking at the stars in the night sky, listening to a mountain stream, watching the waves in the ocean on the beaches of Hawaii which happens to be my favorite vacation spot. I also enjoy very much the peace of my own home, while I have down time I enjoying watching NCIS & House Hunters. The movie that I enjoy the most is The Sound of Music. I was asked if I had any favorite foods, and oh yes, I do! Lobster, steak, chocolate and cookies.

I was born in Allentown, I am married and I have 2 sons, in November I will be married to my best friend for 49 years. If I were stranded on a deserted island the three things that I couldn't live without would be my spouse, food & water.

Who am I?

December Congregation Corner Member:

Merry Christmas to my friends at CHC! I was born in Northampton, PA many years ago. I am married to my spouse for 49 years and I have 2 grown sons and a granddaughter. I told Stephanie that in my 49 years of marriage we have never had an argument, in today's society that is admirable. I have been a member of CHC for over 70 years, my grandparents brought me to church as a young child and I never wandered astray. My favorite bible passage is John 3:16 and I love to barrel out a good hymn and my favorite is Standing on the Promises. I am very active in the church, I quietly do many things around the church, I guess you could call me the church mouse. If I could ask anyone from the bible one question it would be Jesus and I would ask him "If a person had never been told about you, if they died would they go to heaven like a baby?

I enjoy restoring old cars, I have many to choose from in my garage, which one should I do next? I enjoying watching NCIS and my favorite movie is Hunt for Red October. My favorite season is Winter time because that means I do not have to mow the grass. I love to eat, you will always find me on a Sunday morning in the fellowship hall trying whatever goodies are on the table, but my favorite is French Toast.

If I were stranded on a deserted island the things I couldn't live without would be my spouse, food & water.

Who am I?

We are going West in 2019!

May 11-17, 2019- we are doing the Enchanting Canyons starting in Scottsdale Az and heading north to Sedona, Az, Oak Creek Canyon, AZ.

Up to Lake Powell in Utah with a cruise to Antelope Canyon, then to Bryce Canyon, UT, Zion National Park, UT and then to Las Vegas, NV.

If interested, see Debbie Koder 610-967-1975 Cost $3000.00 pp estimated due to air fare not locked in yet. Some meals included, bus transportation, tips, hotels included.

The 2019 budget was approved by the congregation on December 23 with a vote of 50 "yes" votes and 1 "no" vote.

CHC t-shirts are still available for sale.
I have a variety of sizes available at $10.00 each.
Some V necks and some round necks.
See Debbie Koder 610-967-1975

Financial Report—November 30, 2018

Checking Account	
QNB checking	$ 29,422.80
Building Fund	$ 10,404.32
Special Savings	$ 44.168.63
Investment Portfolio	
Miller Endowment	$ 415,481.92
Hoff Endowment	$ 198,859.93
Ameriprise	$ 9,696,79

Answers:

1 Corinthians 13 – the "Love" Chapter of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth
Cain's response to God when God inquired about his murdered brother
The first words of Psalm 23, "The Shepherd Psalm", often attributed to David
Pontius Pilate's words to the crowd as he presented Jesus before them, bleeding
Moses' words to the Pharaoh, pleading for the release of the Israelites
The Angel Gabriel's words to Mary announcing her role in the birth of Jesus
Ruth's words to her mother-in-law after both women were widowed
Jesus' question to Judas Iscariot in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of his betrayal
Mordecai's question to Queen Esther as he plead for her help
Adam's words to Eve in the Garden of Eden after she was formed from his rib
Joseph's words to Potiphar's wife after she tried to seduce him
Jesus' command to Peter after the resurrection and after Jesus questions Peter as to where he loved Jesus