

THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
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TO:

January, 2021

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study – 5:00 PM
(resumes January 6)

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, January 1 – *New Year's Day*

January 3 - Communion

Wednesday, January 6 – *Epiphany of the Lord*

Friday, January 8 – 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study via Zoom

January 10 – *Baptism of the Lord*; Ordination/Installation of Officers

Saturday, January 16 – New Castle Presbytery Meeting; 10:00 AM via Zoom

January 17 – 11:45 AM – Annual Congregational Meeting

Monday, January 18 – *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

January 24 - Snow Date for January 17 Meeting

January 31 – Service of Wholeness & Healing during Worship

From the Session – December 14, 2020

1. Green Hill Church received a gift from the estate of prior member, Brit LeCompte, for Memorial Garden upkeep.
2. The defibrillator will be inspected on Thursday, December 17, and future CPR training will be offered, if possible, in the current COVID-19 environment.
3. The Ladies' Christmas Party on December 1, held virtually, was a great success with fun had by all. Thanks go to Rita Rutherford and Chandler Brown for organizing it!
4. The Green Hill Church proposed budget for 2021 was approved by vote.
5. The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurers were elected for a one year term.
6. All Session Chairmanships were decided and approved.

Jane O. Reed
Clerk of Session

Chancel Flowers Opportunities



If you have an interest to provide chancel flowers for the worship service during 2021, please contact our Flower Coordinator, Kathy Dugan. During the year, openings often develop and she is grateful for someone to step in and cover an open date. You may contact Kathy at kathydugan3@gmail.com or at (302) 888-1422.

Session Elections and Appointments for 2021

The Session elected the following at the December 14, 2020 meeting:

- Jane Reed – Clerk of Session
- Chandler Brown – Assistant Clerk of Session
- Charles Reed – Church Treasurer
- JoAnna Ventresca – Assistant Treasurer

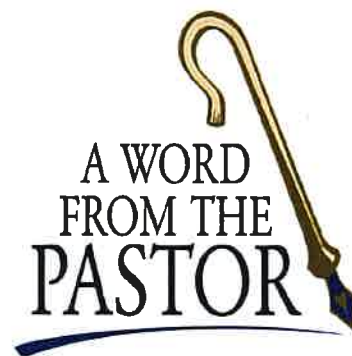
The following will chair Session committees:

- Christian Education – Gail Heath
- Fellowship – Chandler Brown
- Mission & Prayer – Ranie Good
- Nominating – John Stevens
- Personnel/Communications – John Stevens
- Stewardship – JoAnna Ventresca
- Worship – Jane Reed

A New Time

January is the time when we can start things afresh. We always have good intentions and lots of ideas. We want to lose weight, exercise more, read those books we haven't gotten to yet, take a cooking class, etc. etc.! Or pick even just one of those great ideas.

When I wrote the first SPIRE article in October when I arrived, I wrote about *change*. The dictionary definition was “**to make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of (something) different from what it is or from what it would be if left alone:** *to change one's name; to change one's opinion; to change the course of history.*”



But it also says it means “**to transform or convert** (usually followed by *into*):*The witch changed the prince into a toad.*”

I continue like the second definition best, especially the part about *transform*. Isn't that what New Year's resolutions are about anyway—how can we transform ourselves to be our best selves?

The transformation that we look for at church, however, is *the transformation of our spirits*.

As I said in my October article, Paul writes about transformation many times in his letters. He says to the Christians in Rome, “**Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is the good and acceptable and perfect.**”

He writes something similar to the Corinthian Christians in his second letter to them: “**And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**”

What does this transformation bring about? We are being transformed into the image of Christ.

Change and transformation is part of life. It happens in our families, our workplaces, our bodies, our churches—2020 has been full of transformation whether we have wanted it or not!

The one thing that has not changed is God's love for us, each and every one of us! Really knowing that we are deeply and profoundly loved by God is the most powerful transforming power that we can ever experience.

Christmas still happened, even though we had to celebrate it in a different manner. Jesus Christ, our Savior, was yet born two thousand plus years ago whether or not we are able to celebrate it together. In that we can rejoice!

Let's continue to rejoice in 2021!

Pastor Nancy

My Rock and My Salvation (Psalm 62)

Psalm 62:1-2 *“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken.” (NRSV)*

We all face seasons of chaos and turmoil in life. We feel outside pressures affecting our inner peace, and we do not know what we should do. There are times when there is a stirring in the depths of our soul and we desperately seek rest and peace. We know something is not quite right. This psalm is about responding to these chaotic times.

Psalm 62 describes God as a rock and is central to this psalm. It occurs in verses 2, 6 and 7; verses 7-8, ***“On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.”***

The affirmations of trust found in verses 1-2 and 5-7 should be read in the context of the suffering noted in verses 3-4. The psalmist is able to look away from the immediate concerns of life and remember that it is the big things that are truly important, such as salvation (verse 1), and hope (verse 5). And even though we ask every day, *“How long?”* (verse 3) the psalmist notes that we can wait it out.

Verses 9 and 10 portrays the apprehensions of the psalmist as things of either low estate (foolish) or high estate (haughty) which when viewed in context, are found to be as insignificant as the weight of a puff of smoke or a breath of air; ***“Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no confidence in extortion and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”*** The last part of verse 10 refers to not putting your trust in earthly treasures, for they do not bring true happiness.

The psalm concludes with a reminder that we have heard the voice of God, through His Word, and we should follow His teachings; verses 11-12 ***“Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.”***

We find in Matthew 7:24-25 a similar concept of trusting in the rock of our salvation, taught by Jesus about the wise builders who built their house on a rock. ***“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.”***

This psalm is an appeal to God – who answers the prayer of the afflicted soul. The reader is encouraged to consider that when adversity strikes and everything seems to be going wrong, it is never a time to fall into a spirit of bitterness, depression, or unfaithfulness; but a time for prayer and for casting ourselves upon the mercy of God.

“Psalms” by James Limburg published by Westminster John Knox Press
Biblical Ref. New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Nuts for Troops

Thank you for your generosity to the annual **Nuts for Troops** Deacon project. We collected 20 bags of nuts for distribution to our local airmen who are deployed overseas with the Delaware Air National Guard. Our friend, Chaplain Susannah Tulloch, supplied us with the appropriate address for the airmen. In addition to the nuts, we sent Christmas cards for the service members' enjoyment. The cards were made by members of Deacon Denise Snyder's preschool class and by Chance and Cash Scarborough.



New Role for Readers Beginning January 3, 2021

Pastor Nancy Anderson has redefined the role of Reader during the worship service. Along with new duties comes a new title, **Worship Assistant**. You will see the Worship Assistants listed on the Volunteers page in the SPIRE for January 2021 and successive months.

Worship Assistants will be responsible for the following parts of the worship service:

- The Call to Worship
- The Call to Confession
- The Prayer of Confession
- The Prayer of Illumination and
- The two Scripture Lessons

During our Worship services, Pastor Nancy will do:

- The Welcome and Announcements
- Assurance of Pardon
- The Sermon
- Affirmation of Faith
- Prayers of the People
- Call for the Offering
- Prayer of Dedication and
- The Benediction

Please look for these changes to take effect with the first worship service of 2021, on January 3.

CPR and AED Training at Green Hill

Green Hill Church has an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**. An automated external defibrillator is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses specific life-threatening cardiac situations and then provides a stimulus, allowing the heart to re-establish an effective rhythm. The AED is designed for members of the non-medical community to use. Our AED is located in a case next to the church office vestibule, adjacent to the church mailboxes. Our unit was serviced in December, 2020 and now has fresh pads, awaiting any need for it that we might have.

We will offer training to use our AED machine as well as “compressions only” CPR training this winter. Our trainer, John Birney, has worked with Green Hill Church for many years. He is a retired EMT and has his own emergency services training and on-site AED servicing company. The course we will offer is 2-1/2 to 3 hours long and covers both AED use and CPR. He is continuing to offer this American Heart Association course during the COVID-19 situation with appropriate special procedures in place.

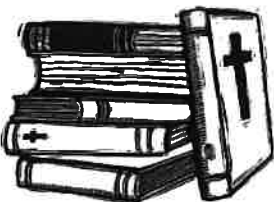
Please consider taking this course. You may help save a life at church or at home or the office or among friends with the CPR training you receive here. Please watch for training dates in the Weekly Update or a future SPIRE. Minimum class size is 8 and participants need not be members of Green Hill. Cost per participant is \$35.

2021 Green Hill Presbyterian Church Annual Calendar

Please use the 2021 Green Hill Church Annual Calendar to find all pre-scheduled church meeting and event dates and times approved by Session. The Annual Calendar is located under the Newsletters tab of the Green Hill Church website; www.greenhillpres.org.

You may also find a copy of the 2021 Green Hill Church calendar attached to your January, 2021 SPIRE. Whether you receive the electronic or hard-copy version of The SPIRE, please remove and save the Calendar pages for future reference.

Women’s Bible Study News



WOMEN'S Bible Study

Women’s Bible Study resumes on **Wednesday, January 6, at 5:00 PM** after taking a break during the end of November and all of December. The women are studying Genesis Chapters 12 – 50 with a Bible Study called *God of Covenant* by Jen Wilkin. The January 6 session will be a homework review via Zoom of Chapter 6 in our Study Guide called “Exile and Reconciliation”. It covers material in Genesis Chapters 29 – 33. On Wednesday, January 13, we will view the Session 6 video in the sanctuary at church. We wear masks and use good social distancing practices when we watch the video and for our discussion afterward.

Christmas Carolers Go Live on Zoom!



Green Hill Christmas Carolers are (left to right, front to back) First row: Evelyn Williams, Matt Rutherford, Carol Hessler, Sandy Fine, Rick Baun on guitar, JoAnna Ventresca, Laurie Collender. Second row: Allison Brokaw, Amy Baun, Gail Heath, Tom Stevens. Missing: Bruce Fine; Photographer and Music Director, and Rita Rutherford.

Christmas Joy Recap

On **Sunday, December 20**, Green Hill Church participated with other Presbyterian Churches by collecting the **Christmas Joy Special Offering**. For more than 80 years, this offering has been collected. It is shared equally by the *Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions*, which provides much-needed assistance to Presbyterian Church (USA) church workers and their families, and *Presbyterian-affiliated racial ethnic schools and colleges*, which enable students to develop their gifts and find their calling. This year, generous Green Hill members and friends contributed **\$425** to this worthy cause.



Mary Campbell Center Receives Christmas Eve Contributions



Our recipient this year for our **Christmas Eve Electric Candle Special Offering** was the **Mary Campbell Center**, “providing home and heart to children and adults with disabilities”. Founded in 1976 and located at 4641 Weldin Road, Wilmington, Delaware, it has a homelike and supportive environment. This year our 40+ worshipers made reservations for the Christmas Eve service and had assigned seats for social distancing. They donated **\$189** to the Mary Campbell Center.

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Christmas Caroling and Poinsettias

On Sunday afternoon, December 20th, a big group of Green Hill carolers sang at church in our 11th Annual (and FIRST virtual) Christmas Caroling Party. Holiday cheer was shared with members and friends of Green Hill from all over North America who are unable to attend church services regularly. Many thanks go to Jeff Anderson who videoed the singing, Rev. Nancy Anderson who was the Zoom host, Rick Baun for guitar accompaniment, and Bruce Fine who directed our singing and playing of chimes. Please see the photo of the Green Hill Carolers elsewhere in this issue of The SPIRE.

Designated poinsettias are delivered to The Lorelton after the Christmas Eve service. Thank you to those who donated their poinsettias so that others may enjoy them.



For the Troops



Two care packages containing 20 bags of nuts and handmade cards made by Denise Snyder's preschool class were sent to the troops of the Delaware Air National Guard deployed overseas, hoping to make their Holiday a little bit brighter. We send a big thank you to everyone who purchased and donated nuts and to Gail Heath who organized this project and to Margaret Marquardt who manages the annual nut sale.

EDR & Meals on Wheels

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Saturday, December 19th. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Herbert Maar, Cathy Maxwell, Evelyn Williams, and Kathy Dugan.**

We appreciate the work of our **Meals on Wheels** delivery volunteers for December as well. They were: **Sandy & Bruce Fine, Jen Galvin, Gail Heath, and Evelyn Williams**

The 2021 MOW schedule has been issued to all members of the Green Hill delivery team. If you are interested and willing to serve as a possible delivery substitute, we will send you the schedule. The 2021 EDR schedule has been sent to all workers for comments.

EDR and Meals on Wheels are especially thankful to members of Green Hill for their ongoing support of the community during this difficult time.

During December, individuals generously donated two six-packs of grocery canned goods to Sunday Breakfast Mission.

Adopt-A-Child News

Ministry of Caring has let us know that because of the generosity of the whole Wilmington community they were able to support a total of **695 children** this year, greatly surpassing their goal of adopting 500 children. They want Green Hill to know how much our participation contributed to this exceptional outpouring of support during a very difficult time.

Committee Distributes Emergency Mission Funds 2020

Members of the Mission & Prayer Committee designated **A Door of Hope** and **Sunday Breakfast Mission** each to receive a **\$350** donation from the Committee's Emergency Mission fund which had gone unused during 2020. Both of these Missions receive regular funding from the Green Hill Church via the allocation of the Mission & Prayer Committee.

A Door of Hope serves the New Castle County population through two centers, in Wilmington and Bear. The Wilmington location is our near neighbor at 3407 Lancaster Pike. Their God-centered mission is to offer free help to women who are verifying and making decisions about their pregnancies. It also offers abstinence training and other pregnancy-related services. The Baby Bottle Benefit is one of their largest fundraisers each year and it was forced to go virtual in 2020. We are confident our small additional funding gift will be put to good use.



Sunday Breakfast Mission

The Sunday Breakfast Mission has been especially stressed along with other missions that care for the homeless, hurting, and hungry this year. COVID-19 and the need for good social distancing practices mean that the Mission has been able to serve fewer individuals, particularly in its men's overnight facility. The need is actually greater as more families and individuals are experiencing homelessness. Our small additional funding will offset contributions Green Hill members would normally make following an appearance by the Sunday Breakfast Mission choir and other areas of lost revenue.

The Mission & Prayer Committee encourages continued support of our Mission partners as they face ongoing community crisis needs in 2021.

January Prayer Emphasis

Our Sanctification

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Epiphany 2021

Epiphany is celebrated 12 days from Christmas Day and this year it is on **Wednesday, January 6, 2021**. It is sometimes called Three Kings Day as it commemorates the visit to the baby Jesus by the Three Wise Men (Magi). The Magi visit to the Messiah is described in Matthew 2:1 – 12.

Baptism of the Lord

Baptism of the Lord is celebrated on the first Sunday following Epiphany. This year that date will be **Sunday, January 10**. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. One of the Gospel scripture references may be found at Matthew 3:13 – 16.

Men's Bible Study Resumes in January



The Men of Green Hill are ready to resume their **monthly Bible Study**. It will continue to be on the second Friday of the month. The January date will be **Friday, January 8**. Start time will be 8:00 AM. Undecided at SPIRE press time was the mode of operation; whether it will be a Zoom meeting or an in-person meeting at IHOP – Fairfax. **All Green Hill men are welcome**. Please watch for an e-mail or Weekly Update announcement with the location information. This group has a long Green Hill history and it will be good to see them back in action again beginning in January, 2021.

Questions? Or, for more information contact Rick Baun.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 17, 11:45 AM

Immediately following the worship service on **Sunday, January 17**, we will have our annual **Congregational Meeting**. At this meeting, the previous year is reviewed and often we have the opportunity to imagine what we want to be in the future. Please plan to stay after the worship service for this very important meeting. It will be held in Fellowship Hall. This year the pandemic does necessitate one change. Fellowship Committee will not be providing a “hearty winter picnic” with a variety of comfort foods. We hope to revive this tradition next year once we can gather again to share a meal. Snow date for the annual Congregational Meeting is January 24.

Installation/Ordination of Officers

In order for the church to operate successfully and complete all the work which is necessary, Church members are always needed to serve as Elders on the Green Hill Session, to serve as a Deacon, or to be a Trustee. We are fortunate to have a group of members who were nominated and elected to posts in the Class of 2023 on December 6. They will be ordained or installed during the worship service on **Sunday, January 10**. Please plan to attend.

January 2021 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Dan Dugan

Deacon of the Month Denise Snyder

Acolyte of the Month None Scheduled

Worship Assistants

January 3 - Rob Brokaw
January 10 - Kathy Dugan
January 17 - Denise Snyder
January 24 - Rick Baun
January 31 - John Stevens

Greeters

January 3 - Allison Brokaw
January 10 - Evelyn Williams
January 17 - Maya Hirs
January 24 - Sandy Fine
January 31 - Gail Heath

Refreshments No refreshments during January

Chancel Flowers

January 3 - Kathy & Dan Dugan
January 10 - Ellen & Stephen Grubbs
January 17 - Robert Grubbs
January 24 - Megan Mahle & Jason Cincilla
January 31 - Stout Memorial

Communion Servers January 3

Pre-packaged communion – No servers needed

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

No Kids Sunday School or Child Care in January

Meals On Wheels

January 18 - *No Delivery – MLK Day*
January 19 - Maya Hirs and family
January 20 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
January 21 - Kathy Dugan and Evelyn Williams
January 22 - Kathy Dugan and John Hartman

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Tuesday, January 19
Cooks – Ellen Grubbs
Gail Heath
Jane Reed
Kitchen Help – Dan Dugan
Celery – Gail Heath

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 Stephen Grubbs
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 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3 10:30 AM Worship; Communion 12:00 PM Fellowship Mtg.	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i> 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	7	8 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study via Zoom	9
10 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 9:45 AM Special Session Mtg. 10:30 AM Worship; Ordination/Installation of Officers 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg.	11 7:00 PM Session Mtg.	12	13 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	14 1:00 PM Worship Mtg.	15	16 10:00 AM NC Presbytery Mtg. via Zoom
17 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Annual Congregational Mtg. SPIRE DEADLINE	18 <i>MLK Day</i> No MOW Deliveries	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	20 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	21 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	22 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	23
24 10:30 AM Worship 11:45 AM Snow Date for Congregational Mtg.	25	26	27 5:00 PM Women's Bible Study	28	29	30
31 10:30 AM Worship; Service of Wholeness & Healing 12:00 PM Christian Ed Mtg.						