

THE SPIRE

FROM: GREEN HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3112 Kennett Pike
P. O. Box 3892
Wilmington, DE 19807-0892

Website at www.greenhillpres.org

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TO:

December, 2020

Green Hill Presbyterian Church Office Phone: (302) 652-5065

Pastoral Care: Rev. Nancy Anderson
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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Women's Bible Study on Break

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, December 1 – 7:00 PM Ladies' Fellowship Christmas Party via Zoom

Thursday, December 3 – 9:00 AM Sanctuary Decoration

December 6 – Communion; Music School of Delaware String Quartet during Worship

December 6 – Congregational Election Meeting following Worship

December 13 – Virtual Caroling Practice following Worship

December 20 – Cantata; Christmas Joy Offering; Virtual Caroling following Worship

Thursday, December 24 – 6:00 PM Battery-Operated Candle Service; Communion; Violinist; Special Offering

Friday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 31 – Annual Reports Due

From the Session – November 9, 2020

1. Don Hirs attended the meeting by phone and gave a report on the rental house at 3108 Kennett Pike.
2. Rev. Anderson officiated at the graveside service for member, Phyllis Shone, on Saturday, November 7, 2020, in the Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church Cemetery.
3. Green Hill will take part in the virtual Thanksgiving Eve service. Rev. Anderson will be reading the Litany of Intercession, and will be joined by clergy and choirs of Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and St. Joseph on the Brandywine Roman Catholic Church.
4. The Worship Committee discussed plans for a Christmas Eve Service, which will be further reviewed.
5. The Installation service for Rev. Anderson will take place after the first of the year, 2021.
6. Session approved the Green Hill Church Calendar for year 2021 by vote.
7. Since November 29, 2020 is the Wholeness and Healing Service the previously scheduled Communion (First Sunday of Advent) has been canceled. Communion will be celebrated on December 6, 2020.

Jane O. Reed
Clerk of Session.

Directory Changes

Members:

Please change Susan Barrowman Radice's address to Unit #73. Zip + 4: 08562-1543

Please change address for Carol Hessler to:

101 DuPont Place, #801
Wilmington, DE 19801-1609
Phone remains the same.

Decorating for the Christmas Season

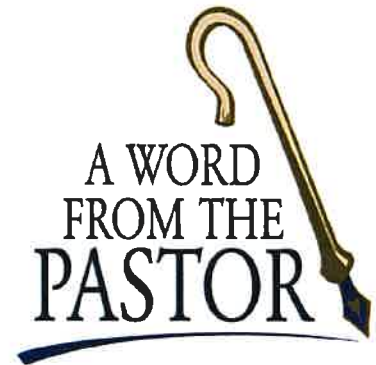


On **Thursday, December 3, at 9 AM** we will be **decorating the sanctuary** with holiday greens. This is a very important task and involves preparing and placing fresh greens, candles, and other Christmas items throughout the sanctuary. If you can spare an hour or so on Thursday morning, please join us!

The Past and the Future

It's hard to believe that the Advent and Christmas season is upon us again! It comes around every year but somehow it seems to take me by surprise each year!

If you think about it, what we celebrate during Advent and Christmas seem to be in conflict. Advent is about looking to the future, anticipating an event. But the event to which we look forward has *already happened*—the birth of the Messiah! How do we look forward to something that is in the past?



This season we'll be learning more about expectation with eagerness. Israel knew about a savior, but did they really understand what that savior would be like? How would *we* look forward to something we didn't fully understand? We'll consider some prophecy, some history, and some poetry to help us begin to experience and understand the sense of anticipation the Jews had before Jesus was born. And we'll mark each week by lighting a candle on our journey.

I hope you'll join me as we make these five "stops" along the way towards the arrival of our Savior.

November 29 | "Hope for Salvation" | *Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80*

December 6 | "Comfort and Peace" | *Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85*

December 13 | "Good News Brings Joy" | *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126*

December 20 | "Love is a Gift" | *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Psalm 89*

December 24, Christmas Eve | "The Light has Come!" | *Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96*

Wonder and anticipation are not just for children looking forward to receiving gifts—they are for all of us, looking forward to and eagerly awaiting the coming of our Savior. After all, it is those who have a child-like heart who will experience true Christmas!

Pastor Nancy

Revival and Renewal (Psalm 85)

Psalm 85:9 ***“Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.” (NRSV)***

Psalm 85 is the lectionary psalm for the second Sunday of Advent this year, December 6th. It is interpreted by many to be a prophetic psalm involving the promise of revival and renewal. This psalm opens with a statement of the blessings conferred on the people in the past (vv. 1-3); followed by pleas for renewal (vv. 4-7); and finally expresses the faith that God will provide for a renewal and the benefits we receive from that (vv. 8-13).

In verses 1-3, the psalmist speaks of God as having been favorable to his people in the past, recalling a time when things seemed encouraging and life more fulfilling. However, verses 4 and 5 indicate that in the recent past as well as current times, things are not as good, and that God seems angry with his people.

The central verse (verse 6) in this psalm, contains the plea; ***“Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?”*** This is the central theme of this psalm. The verses that follow depict the benefits of a renewal through the poetic language of the psalmist. When God’s people feel renewed, they can more fully rejoice in God’s creation.

I encourage you to compare several biblical translations of this psalm, i.e. the New English Bible (NEB), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), and the King James Version (KJV). There are specific words that each translation uses, and to me, these words offer a more complete understanding.

For example, in the NSRV the words ***“Steadfast love”*** and ***“Faithfulness”*** are used instead of ***“Mercy”*** and ***“Truth”*** as found in the KJV. Compare verse 10a in both translations; ***“Steadfast love and faithfulness meet together”*** with ***“Mercy and truth are met together”***. Both are acceptable translations from the ancient Hebrew, but to me they contain slightly different connotations. Mercy and truth can almost be opposites, and for those two attributes to meet, denotes that the *‘hard fact’* of truth (i.e. right and wrong) must be tempered with the compassionate act of mercy. What a wonderful thought.

In another example, in some translations the word ***“Righteousness”*** is replaced by ***“Justice”***. Compare verse 10b versions; ***“Justice and peace have kissed each other”*** with ***“Righteousness and peace have kissed each other”***. Peace (*shalom*) implies living a blessed life in communion with God, with nature and with each other. There is no real peace if there is injustice; there is no real peace if unrighteousness (*wrong behavior*) is being committed.

***“Thus says the Lord:
Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.” Isaiah 56:1(NRSV)***

Primary Ref. *The Interpreter’s Bible Vol. 4* published by Abington Press
Biblical Ref. *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*, *King James Version (KJV)* and the *New English Bible (NEB)*

Bruce Fine
Music Director

Here's To 100 Years

Our dear friend at Green Hill, **Agnes Ross Brown**, will be 100 years old on December 9, 2020, and we wish her good wishes for a joyous milestone of a birthday. Like the Queen of England displays the royal flag when she is in residence, Agnes Brown's new car (purchased at age 98) sits by the church front steps when Agnes is in church! And she deserves the spot!!



Our birthday girl was born in Seaford, Delaware on December 9, 1920, and the family moved to Wilmington shortly thereafter. Her father was a builder and worked on several homes in Westover Hills. Agnes went to the Beacom Secretarial School (now Goldey-Beacom) and was a secretary at DuPont for 40 years. She also attended Calvary Church, until God brought her to Green Hill in 2004.

Agnes started working as a secretary for Rev. Bill Teate, missionary for Glad Tidings India in 1973, and her work for him continues today. I'm sure that one reason for her longevity is that she tirelessly cares for others, as God instructs us all to do. At 100, she takes her 101 year old blind and deaf and living alone friend to doctor's appointments and grocery shops for her, etc., among others she watches over.

We at Green Hill are so fortunate to have Agnes Brown in our congregation. She has taught us a lot, and we celebrate her special day and wish her a Happy 100th Birthday!

by Jane Reed

With Sympathy

Phyllis Booth Shone, Green Hill member for only one year, died at age 91 on October 20, 2020 in Wilmington Hospital. She lived at Stonegates Retirement Community since 2008, and was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Foulk Road. I met Phyllis at a sewing group we belonged to called "The So and Sews", formally the "Knit Pickers" – ugh!! We got to talking and she said that her grandparents, Squire and Hannah Booth, were buried in the Green Hill Cemetery. After her husband, Bill Shone, died, Phyllis showed some interest in attending Green Hill. So we brought her to church for almost two years, until finally she joined in October, 2019. (She and Tom couldn't seem to set a date to join.) She loved her new church and had she lived I'm sure she would have joined the Craft Group. Her big project at Stonegates was creating and donating over 400 caps for infants at Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. To quote her obituary, she was a retired teacher and when that ended, supported several organizations such as Girl Scouts of America and Lutheran Community Services, with her philanthropy. She was fun, thoughtful, and caring and will be missed by all who knew her.

by Jane Reed

Reminder- Poinsettias



Orders for Christmas poinsettias are due on **Sunday, December 6**. **Poinsettias can be purchased in red or white at a cost of \$19.00 each.** To place an order, please return the Order Form on the back table in the sanctuary along with your check or cash. The poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Eve service. You may also indicate that you prefer that your poinsettia be given by the Deacons to a shut in. Orders go to Kathy Dugan. There is a basket for orders and payment on the back table in the sanctuary.

Nuts Summary

This year we tried something different with our fall nuts order process and it seems to have worked. In addition to asking for your personal order on our order form, we also asked you to place your order for the *Nuts for Troops* project which the Deacons have sponsored. This was successful maximizing our personal orders as well as our nut donations. We have two big boxes of nuts ready for Gail Heath to ship overseas to airmen who are deployed with the Delaware Air National Guard. Thanks to all your purchases of nuts in 2020 we made a profit of **\$332.79**. The Craft Group will meet after the New Year to determine the charitable purpose to which we will apply this total.



Reservations Required for Christmas Eve Service

Following our long-standing tradition, we do plan to have a 6:00 PM Christmas Eve service at Green Hill this year. We are sensitive to the situation with COVID-19 and are taking some necessary precautions. Most important for all attendees is that **RESERVATIONS** will be **REQUIRED** to attend. We need to know how many people to expect in order that we may place them safely and socially distant in our pews. To that end, please make your reservation with your name and number of people attending with you. Diane Shorter, in the office, can take that reservation by phone or e-mail or you may sign up on the sheet on the back table in the sanctuary. Worship Committee is considering our online options which we can offer when we are full in-person at about 50 people.

The service itself will still feature our beloved Christmas carols and readings. Pastor Nancy will have a Christmas message. We will celebrate Communion with prepackaged Communion elements. Our candle lighting will be different in that we will utilize new battery-operated candles. The normal candle lighting ceremony just offers too many opportunities to vary from good social distancing practices. We are confident that the battery-operated candles will prove to be an adequate substitute with wonderful safety advantages!

If you are planning to attend our Christmas Eve service this year, please **make your reservation promptly**. We appreciate your help with this as we seek to make the Christmas Eve service a meaningful experience during this unusual year.

Special Music during December

The second Sunday in Advent has traditionally been one filled with Christmas carols played by the musicians of Capitol Brass. Sadly, COVID 19 has made that impossible as the group is neither practicing together nor taking bookings at this time.



In their place on **December 6**, we will welcome local musicians, **Jennifer Stomberg, cellist, and the Music School of Delaware String Quartet**. Joining Jennifer will be Lionel Thomas and Caroline Stephenson on violin and Maria Rusu on viola. We know already that one piece in their repertoire will be *The Christmas Concerto* by Corelli.

On **Sunday, December 13**, the **Green Hill Ringers** will perform seasonal hand bell selections. There might be a special surprise during the performance. Come to church on December 13 to find out!

A Celebration of Christmas: Advent is the beginning of a new Christian year. The **Green Hill “cantata”** this year will be a bit different from pre-pandemic days, but it will still provide a respite from the outside world as well as perhaps a deeper understanding of Advent. We will explore various meanings of the season in the Word as well as the music on the **fourth Sunday in Advent, December 20**.



One of the songs that will be presented is one written by the great American poet, Henry Wordsworth Longfellow during the Civil War, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. What a difficult time that was! Perhaps once we remember the trials and struggles of our ancestors during that period, we can gain new hope and new determination for ourselves today. Another song that will be presented is *Christmas Dinner* by Noel Paul Stookey. This song reminds us all of the true

meaning of Christmas.

Let us celebrate the renewal message of the Advent season. It is a season of waiting, watching and listening. Advent, the season of renewal and wonder!

Janice Mahan, of Mahan Music, is a professional **violinist** based in the Wilmington, Delaware area. She will return to Green Hill to perform for us during our **Christmas Eve evening worship service**. Janice has studied with private teachers since the age of eight including music performance with Dr. Yung Su Ahn at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, Maryland. She has played first violin with the Newark Symphony and Chamber Ensemble, the Wilmington Community Orchestra, the Immaculata Symphony and Chamber Ensemble, the Delaware County Symphony, as well as concertmaster of the Chesco Pops Orchestra, the Shaw Strings Quartet, and the Gilbert and Sullivan performances at West Chester University. Janice has played violin in the Wilmington, Delaware area for over twenty years and enjoys playing various genres of music including Celtic and American Fiddler.



Women's Christmas Party

The Green Hill Women's Christmas Party is **ON!** It will be via Zoom on **Tuesday, December 1, at 7 PM.**

Enjoy the Christmas season with other Green Hill Women. The realities of Zoom will make our party different this year, but we expect to have good fellowship and to be able to play some holiday word games. There may be other surprises!



All women should have received an e-mail which includes the Zoom information. The party planners are Chandler Brown and Rita Rutherford.

**All Green Hill Women are invited to attend via Zoom!
Join The Fun!**

**Zoom Questions? Please contact Rita Rutherford
or Diane Shorter (at the church office).**

December Special Offerings

At our worship service on **Sunday, December 20**, Green Hill Church will participate with other Presbyterian Churches to collect 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. Special envelopes will be in the Sunday Bulletin on December 13 and available on the back table in the Sanctuary.



Our recipient this year for our **Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Special Offering** will be 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. Green Hill has a long and deep connection with the Mary Campbell Center. Our former member, the late Marjorie Stevens, served at the Center in many capacities, both volunteer and leadership, including the Interim Executive Director and Chair of the Board of Directors. Currently, members, Kathy Dugan (Treasurer) and John Stevens, sit on the Board of Directors.

Signs of Serving

from the Green Hill Deacons



Clothing Drive

The members and friends of Green Hill responded in this unusual year with their generous donation of clothing to the Deacons' Fall Clothing Drive. After having to cancel the spring clothing drive, we delivered **35 bags of clothing and shoes** to the Ministry of Caring Distribution Center. Thanks so much for your compassionate giving and "thank you" to Evelyn Williams and Gail Heath for delivering the bags.

Thank You for your Generous Donations to the Food Drive

The Deacons thank you for the **13 bags of groceries, 2 big boxes of mixed groceries, 1 case of canned goods, 1 frozen turkey + \$180 cash** donated to the Thanksgiving Food Drive for Sunday Breakfast Mission. SBM expects to distribute 1700 Thanksgiving 50 lb. food boxes on November 23 and 24 and serve 800 hot meals on Thanksgiving Day in three seatings to keep social distancing. Throughout the year we accept non-perishable food items for the Sunday Breakfast Mission into the bin in the back of the sanctuary.

EDR & Meals on Wheels (MOW)

Thank you to all who participated in the preparation of the meal for EDR on Thursday, November 19th. They included: **Ellen Grubbs, Jane Reed, Dan Dugan, and Kathy Dugan.**

We appreciate the work of our MOW delivery volunteers for November as well: **Rita & Matt Rutherford, Maya Hirs and family, Jen Galvin and Gail Heath.**



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

Adopt-A-Child Program

Our Green Hill family rose to the challenge of a modified Adopt-A-Child program. Ministry of Caring collected only cash this year and Green Hill members and friends contributed **\$635** which provides presents for **8 ½** children. Thank you for your love and generosity which brings joy to children during this Christmas season.



Christmas Caroling via Zoom!

We have worked diligently to come up with a way to sing Christmas carols to our shut-ins and other members of our congregation. It will be via Zoom and the carolers will sing together at church in a socially distanced fashion, similar to the way the choir sang on October 4. We will **practice on December 13**, right after church, to get the Zoom bugs worked out, and then we'll do our caroling on the afternoon of **December 20**. Please join us for either caroling or viewing!



For The Troops



Thank you to everyone who donated nuts for the deployed airmen from the Delaware Air National Guard. We also included Christmas cards created by children in Deacon Denise Snyder's pre-kindergarten class along with the nuts. I know that this will make their holidays a little bit more cheerful and happy. We send a special "thank you" to Gail Heath who organized this project and to Margaret Marquardt of the Craft Group who spearheads the ordering of nuts each year.

UrbanPromise Wilmington Seeks Job Applicants

UrbanPromise Wilmington, one of our mission partners, is seeking new employees for a variety of positions in their schools and elsewhere in their organization. Important information follows.

Currently, UrbanPromise has several key job openings available and are reaching out to church friends to ask for help to spread the word. A career at UrbanPromise is, without a doubt, a powerful and significant faith-building experience, and the needs are great. **We welcome mission-minded adults to join us in our vision to raise leaders and restore community in the city of Wilmington!**

Job Openings at UrbanPromise Wilmington

UrbanPromise Wilmington is dedicated to equipping children and young adults with the skills necessary for academic achievement, personal growth and leadership. In a given year, we serve over 700 of Wilmington's most under-resourced children through our schools, after school programs, summers camps and StreetLeader job training program.



We currently have openings in both schools, our after school programming, and administration. For more details visit our website at <https://www.urbanpromise.org/job-openings>

The Mission & Prayer Committee encourages continued support of our Mission partners as they face even greater community needs in 2020.

December Prayer Emphasis

Perseverance under Trial

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (NIV)

Advent Candle Lighters 2020



Advent Candle Lighters will be:

November 29 (HOPE): Rita & Matt Rutherford

December 6 (FAITH): Allison & Rob Brokaw

December 13 (JOY): Amy & Rick Baun

December 20 (PEACE): Cathy & Bob Maxwell

December 2020 Schedule of Volunteers

Head Usher Charles Reed

Deacon of the Month Amy Baun

Acolyte of the Month None Scheduled

Readers

December 6 - Tom Stevens
December 13 - Steven Grubbs
December 20 - Evelyn Williams
December 24 - Amy Baun
December 27 - Joey Noszek

Greeters

December 6 - Amy Baun
December 13 - Ellen Grubbs
December 20 - Kathy Dugan
December 24 - Evelyn Williams
December 27 - Jane Reed

Refreshments No Refreshments during
December

Chancel Flowers

December 6 - Laurie & Mark Collender
December 13 - John & Miriam Stevens
December 20 - Evelyn Williams
December 24 - Jane & Charles Reed
December 27 - Jane & Charles Reed

Advent Candle Lighters

November 29 - Rita & Matt Rutherford
December 6 - Allison & Rob Brokaw
December 13 - Amy & Rick Baun
December 20 - Cathy & Bob Maxwell

Communion Servers

December 6 - Pre-packaged Communion; no servers
December 24 - Pre-packaged Communion; no servers

Kids Sunday School Teacher + Child Care

No Kids Sunday School or Child Care during December

Meals On Wheels

December 21 - Sandy & Bruce Fine
December 22 - Maya Hirs and family
December 23 - Jen Galvin and Gail Heath
December 24 - Cathy Maxwell and Evelyn Williams
December 25 - *No Delivery – Christmas Day*

Emmanuel Dining Room – Cook Only

Saturday, December 19

Cooks – Herbert Maar
Cathy Maxwell
Evelyn Williams
Kitchen Help – Ellen Grubbs
Celery – Evelyn Williams

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Mark Collender	15 Nancy Wolf
2 Joseph Noszek	20 Roman Cincilla
Rob Poppiti	22 Melanie Venet
7 Nancy Anderson	Krista Somers
8 Megan Mahle	26 Don Hirs
9 Agnes Brown (100 in 2020)	27 Charles Murphy
Lisa Somers	30 Kate Maxwell Fox
11 Palin Poppiti	31 Miriam Stevens
13 Andrew Baun	

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

19 Anneliese and Herbert Maar
- 50 Years 2018

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Women's Christmas Party via Zoom	2	3 9:00 AM Sanctuary Decoration 11:00 AM Bells Practice	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Worship; Advent Candle Lighting; Communion; String Quartet 11:30 AM Congregational Election Mtg.	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Worship; Advent Candle Lighting 11:30 AM Snow Date for Election Mtg. 11:30 AM Virtual Caroling Practice 12:00 PM Deacons Mtg.	14 7:00 PM Session Mtg.	15	16	17	18	19 8:15 AM EDR Prep
20 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM Worship; Advent Candle Lighting; Cantata; Christmas Joy Offering 1 PM Virtual Caroling SPIRE DEADLINE	21 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	22 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	23 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries	24 Christmas Eve 10:40 AM MOW Deliveries 6:00 PM Battery Operated Candles Service; Communion; Violinist; Special Offering	25 Christmas Day	26
27 10:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	31 <i>Annual Reports Due</i>		