



# HILLTOPICS –OCTOBER 2018

WILSON MEMORIAL UNION CHURCH WATCHUNG, NJ 07069 (908) 755-5020  
[www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org](http://www.wilsonmemorialchurch.org) Email: [wilsonchurch@verizon.net](mailto:wilsonchurch@verizon.net)

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

There is a word that has gotten a bad rap and that word is *intention*. All of us know the saying, “the road to hell is paved with good intentions”. Maybe we’ve even become convinced that the intention to be a certain way or do a certain thing is simply a poor substitute for the action itself. Certainly if we rely only on our good intentions, and then sit and twiddle our thumbs, something is wrong with that picture! But, what about the ability of intention to motivate us so that right action will follow?

I’ve been thinking a lot about intention in relation to our new wonderful **Kindness Trail** created by Girl Scout Troop 65114. Have you checked it out? Please do. It is so easy to find off our upper back parking lot. Take the wood chip covered trail and you will see signs to inspire you along the way! The signs say things like “Choose Kindness” and “Let your faith be bigger than your fears”. There are some great signs there. That being said, you and I know that even with the best of intentions, none of us can always choose kindness in all the situations we come across in a “just do it” kind of way. The same can be said for holding fast to a faith that it is bigger than our fears. Yet keeping these intentions in our awareness as a guide can move us away from being judgmental or harsh or angry when opportunities for acting with real, authentic kindness come our way. Nourishing our faith in our innermost being with intention can fill us up more and more so there is less space for fear to be present.

I like to think that within the word intention itself there is a beautiful, hidden meaning. The word invites us to live “in-a-tent”, in a particular type of tent. And we get to choose that tent. Do an experiment. Each morning, say to yourself, “today I’m going to live in the tent of kindness”, or “today I’m going to live in the tent of faith”, or even, “today I’m going to live in the tent of peace”. Do this and see what happens. You just might notice more of who you truly want to be emerging in surprising ways! Take this a step further. Find some quiet time. Actually visualize your kindness tent, your faith tent, or your peace tent. See yourself standing in the center of it and imagine it being a traveling tent you take with you everywhere you go as you invite others to join you underneath it. That would be really taking to heart the purpose of intention.

We are in this world together, struggling to do the right thing. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of what our God wants us to be about. Won’t you join with me in cultivating the way of purposeful intentions as your great, big, overarching intention for the coming weeks? Let me know how it goes for you! My prayer is that all the good tents you choose to live in remain sturdy and strong. And, if you find you let yourself down because you let the tent you’ve chosen to live under get blown around by gusty challenges or even gale force winds, please don’t be too hard yourself. We are human after all. The good news is tomorrow is a new day, and you get to choose a brand new tent of kindness, faith or peace for your abiding. That’s the beauty of having intention! Faithfully Yours, Barbara

**Communion Sunday**  
**The Sacrament of Communion, October 7th, 2018**



*The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated in our Sanctuary. If you are wondering whether or not to participate, be assured that you are invited and encouraged to share in Communion as one who loves Christ and seeks to walk with Him.*

*It is with great joy that our  
Wilson Memorial Church Community  
Celebrates  
The Ordination of  
Michael W. Droege  
To the Gospel Ministry!*

*We hope that you can join us  
Sunday, October 21, 2018 @ 2:00pm  
For the Service of Ordination.  
Following the service,  
A luncheon will be served, along with Cake  
& Tea/Coffee*

Please R.S.V.P. to Karen Cito at  
[kcito2@embarqmail.com](mailto:kcito2@embarqmail.com) or send a text/call  
(908) 442-3317,  
so that we have an idea of attendance!!!

**“WHAT’S BREWING?”...**

October 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:20am in Sanctuary. We are pleased to announce that Kamili Williams, **President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield and Middlesex County** will be joining us for our first “What’s Brewing?” of this new season. Held generally on the second Sunday of the month, “What’s Brewing?” programs address relevant issues. Grab your cup of coffee and join us back in the Sanctuary on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy Fall Everyone!

Our new season is off to such a fun start. I was thrilled to see the kids coming down to Sunday School, or should I say ancient **Babylon**, for our kick off event. They played together, listened to the story Daniel inside a Babylonian tent, and then headed to the “marketplace” to make some wares! It was also great to have the adults join in during coffee hour! Thank you to everyone who made this great.

Did you get to see our **Kindness Trail** yet? We dedicated our trail on Sunday the 23rd with the Wighard family and the Girl Scouts. We want to say a special thank you also to the Shpunder family who dedicated hours to the trail as well as to the Boy Scouts who did the original blazing last year. Come walk the trail!

Our first public event for the trail will be our **Fairytale Forest** on October 28th. This is our annual fall event around the Halloween season, formerly Trunk or Treat. This year is the same fun concept of Trunk or Treat, only this time we transform our forest into fairytale fun! We invite everyone to participate by coming up with your favorite fairytale and taking a section of the forest and making it fun! We will invite our community so we want to make it grand! Contact me right away with your fairytale to reserve a spot. We don't want any duplicate stories! [wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com)

For all teens, **Second Sunday Youth Ministry** starts October 14th! Join us in Fisher Hall for our first gathering of the year from 5-6:30 PM. Expect friends, fun, and the opportunity to connect to faith in a way that makes sense. See you there!

Finally, have you registered yet for **Grow Together**, our intergenerational faith building series? This ministry is one that is vital to our growth as a church as we all develop relationships together and seek God as family. God's idea for church was always that we grow as one body. This ministry is a beginning to helping Wilson become a growing body where we truly grow together. We ask that everyone register for the series because dinner will be provided and the content builds on each other. Our first event is Oct 13, and following on Nov. 10, Dec. 1, Jan. 12, Feb. 2, March 2, and Apr. 6. Mark your calendars now so nothing fills into the spots and register at church or by emailing Michael at [wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com). Michael

#### **A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...**

"I believe, I trust, I let go." "Be kind today" "You are loved"  
"You make God smile!" "Be still and know" "Jesus loves you"  
"You are amazing" "May peace be with you".

Imagine if someone shared one of these thoughts with you or you said it to yourself, perhaps when feeling a little down, or angry about something, or unsure. Would one of these simple sayings help to turn your day around? What if you shared one of these thoughts with someone else who is feeling low? Try saying one of these statements to yourself. We all need hugs, and sometimes a few positive words can do so much. God wants us to share His love, share His kindness.

Our church has so much going on, and we want all to share in this goodness! Our church school is starting out the year with an awesome journey to Ancient Babylon. There are a host of other opportunities too - What's Brewing, Second Sunday, Book Group, Grow Together, Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Fairytale Forest. StarFish to name a few items. Maybe if we all could ask a friend or a new neighbor to join us for a Sunday, imagine how far we could spread this goodness.

"Thank you, God, for this good life and forgive us if we do not love it enough." Garrison Keillor Lorri Monetti

- 1) **Minister's Report:** Barbara is starting a new daytime 8 week Grief Recovery Series.
- 2) Chapel Wednesdays begin again in the Chapel, October 3rd, 7:15PM.
- 3) Barbara is doing a new 3-part book group, Tuesdays, October 9th, 23rd, November 6th at 7PM on Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance.
- 4) "What's Brewing?" will be held in the Sanctuary, 11:20am, October 14th, with guest Kamili Williams of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plainfield and Middlesex. Plan now on coming also to "What's Brewing?" November 11th. The guest presenter will be from United Family in Plainfield, the organization we support with our Christmas gift drive.
- 5) **Youth and Family Ministries Report:** Thomas Henry is diving into work heading up the Sunday School and has begun his role as Sunday School Administrator.
- 6) First family intergenerational mission trip went well. They finished a home for someone and it was very meaningful for everyone there. Participants actually got to meet the homeowner and feel connected to the work they were doing. Sometime in October will be a reflection on the trip.
- 7) Second Sunday starting on second Sunday of October.
- 8) Sept. 23 grand opening of the Kindness Trail. Thanks to Sphunders for laying new wood chips on the trail. Thanks to Wighard family for their work on the trail. Girl Scouts will come on 23rd to talk about project and back corner, the Kindness Corner. This was a Silver award Girl Scout project. Boy Scouts created the trail through clearing initially.
- 9) Fairytale Forest (Trunk or Treat replacement) to be launched this year after being rained out last year. Last Sunday of October.
- 10) Grow Together – Intergenerational ministry to launch on Oct. 13. 7 meetings during the year from Oct. to Apr., once per month. People asked to sign up and register and become part of lunch tables. Lunch tables will be assigned to mix it up and create new relationships. 5:30-7 – only 90 minutes, including dinner.
- 11) **FACILITIES** – Tony Cito reported on the following projects and issues. Sump pump trenched out and replaced in Blackburn Hall over summer. Trees were taken down on the property that were in danger of coming down.
- 12) More emergency exit lights put in Blackburn Hall. Emergency exit lighting completed for now.
- 13) Inspection required the need for carbon monoxide detectors...10 added in church.
- 14) Organization and deep cleaning needed in kitchen. Karen Cito is going to try and do some organization. Then get Micro Clean to come in and do deep clean. To be scheduled.
- 15) Schedule fall cleaning before holiday decorating on a Saturday. To use job tickets again.
- 16) Chair lift to Blackburn Hall basement – to be removed to allow for better movement through the stairway. Lift is inoperable and blocking stairway. To be removed for safety reasons.
- 17) Getting in touch with electrician to add overhead lighting where the serving area is by kitchen in Fisher Hall.

- 18) Breaker for the Sanctuary AC went out during recent heat wave. Breaker needs to be looked at before it fails completely...looking to upgrade power source for breaker panel before it becomes an emergency.
- 19) Quotes in for windows in Blackburn and the Sunday school wing. Clarification needed to ensure both contractors have quoted equal labor and materials before a decision can be made. Window project to be proposed to Memorial Endowment.
- 20) Film for Fisher Hall windows will be completed soon.
- 21) Sanctuary lights – the project to replace light bulbs in the Sanctuary with appropriate LED lights is under way. A lift will be needed to access the highest lights.
- 22) Sanctuary Sound system upgrade is almost completed. There are some remaining items that need to be replaced, such as speakers, but the update of the microphones has already been noticed and appreciated.
- 23) **COVENANT COMMITTEE** – Two items noted, 42 pints of blood collected at the summer blood drive, and pushing for 67 in fall, and the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service to be hosted by St. Mary's. Details forthcoming.
- 24) **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** - Susan Sparks has been contracted as a comedian for a fundraiser on May 4, 2019. More details to follow. A suggestion was made to include bringing in canned goods for StarFish.

#### **NEW BOOK GROUP... *Hillbilly Elegy***

Please join us for our new three session book group! We will be reading and discussing *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. *Hillbilly Elegy* is described as, “a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis – that of poor, white Americans ...in *Hillbilly Elegy*, J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck.” The group will meet on **Tuesday's, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. 7:00pm** either at the church or in group members' homes. Let Barbara know if you would like to be a part!

#### **FINANCIAL FACTS-NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER...**

I will be periodically providing an update on our financial status throughout the year. Over the summer you should have received a congregational letter that included a financial status update.

At that time, our income/expense numbers were looking pretty rosy. Unfortunately, the summer doldrums hit us and we are now in a catch up position as we enter the 4th quarter.

From the August report, our income is now almost \$26,000 behind our expenses and our expenses are on budget. While we traditionally are in a negative position at the end of the summer, to put things in perspective, we are over \$14,000 deeper in the hole than we were at the end of last August.

I, selfishly, would like my first year as treasurer to show at least a balanced budget!

Barbara, Michael and the entire Wilson Memorial team of staff and volunteers are doing their best to provide exciting programs and attract visitors to our doors. These efforts require continued support from all of us.

If you are able, please consider adding a little extra to your already generous donation to further the work of this, *your* church.

*With gratitude, Pam Davis*



#### **CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS ...**

Chapel Wednesdays will begin again on the first Wednesday of the month, **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. **The time is 7:15pm-8:00pm** and the theme will be *Present Moment*. Look for upcoming Chapel Wednesdays: November 7<sup>th</sup>, *Gratitude* and December 5<sup>th</sup>, *Gift*. Each evening consists of music, a very brief reading or spoken reflection on the theme of the night, a guided meditation and then a period of silence that you may use for your own private prayer practice. Invite anyone you think may be interested!

#### **NEW FACES (AND VOICES) IN THE CHOIR...**

Earlier this year, Jim approached the Personnel Committee and the Board with a request to hire a few paid vocalists to bolster our choir. There have been fewer people to replace those folks that have moved away or have retired. This proposal was to hire singers to enhance and support the present group of volunteers. After discussions with the current choir members, the finance committee, and the entire board, it was determined that, because choral music is an integral and important part of the worship experience at Wilson Memorial, there is a need to supplement our faithful volunteers. Through a generous gift from the Boyd and Jeanette Woodruff Charitable Trust, the board agreed to fund the hiring of up to four singers as a one year experiment.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of three singers; Paul Flood, James Harris, and Sophia Mortensen. They will be joining the choir beginning in October and will continue through the end of May. Please introduce yourselves to them and welcome them into the Wilson family.

**COVENANT COMMITTEE...**

The Covenant Committee is making plans for our Fall Blood Drive which will be held on Saturday November 17th from 8:00AM to 2:00 PM in the Firemen's Exempt Hall on Mountain Blvd. in Watchung. There is always a great need for blood products and whole blood and double reds will be drawn. Please put this on your calendar, sign-up in the narthex or come as a welcome walk-in!

We are also planning our Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday November 18th at 4:00 PM at St. Mary's Stony Hill. It is always an excellent time to express our ever-present thankfulness. Refreshments will be served after the service. We look forward to seeing you there. More details will follow about each event in the next Hilltopics. Fran Ellis

**WOMEN'S GUILD...**

The Women's Guild will meet Thursday, October 4th at 11:30am-1:30pm in Fisher Hall. The meeting will be followed by a bring your sandwich luncheon at noon. Desserts and beverage supplied. All are welcome.

**THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP ...**

The Frippery is the yellow house in the upper church parking lot. It is Open Tues/Thurs 9:30-12:30 (and the FIRST Sat. Oct-June). Mark your calendars!

Make The Frippery your HALLOWEEN HEADQUARTERS, we have lots of items for decorating your home and quite a few costumes (Average \$2-\$4) Many beautiful items for gift giving or keeping to enjoy yourself, china, glasses, crystal, wine glasses, linens, CHRISTMAS items, sewing machine, books, toys, puzzles, craft items, jewelry, watches and TONS more at garage sale prices! Stop by today!

\*The Frippery donated \$500 To the Somerset County animal shelter to help care for animals that were brought here due to hurricane Florence. We are adding one dollar per customer to send in as a second donation by early October. Thank you for supporting the FRIPPERY! Lisa Renaud



**SYMPATHY...**

We extend our sympathy to the family of Barbara Hart who passed away on July 6<sup>th</sup> in Florida. A memorial service was held at Wilson Memorial Church on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

We recently learned about the death of Barbara Baldwin in Hilton Head, South Carolina. We extend our sympathy to her husband Ken and her entire family.



**PERSONAL ITEMS...**

We continue to pray for those suffering with health problems: Diane Ray, Joan Baylis, Russ Funk, Howard Beyer, Janet Meeks, Joyce Possien, Ellie Groves, Gladys Andrews, Joy Jurgens, Eva Wehof and Alison Barr.

# October 2018

## Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am – 12:30pm Boy Scouts Meeting-Library 7:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	Chapel Wednesday 7:15pm-8:00pm  Boy Scouts Meeting Library 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am – 12:30pm Women's Guild 11:30am Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	Leadership Development Workshop – Board Fisher Hall 9am  Frippersy 9:30am – 12:30pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Worship Service 10am Communion  AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm  Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm  Book Group 7:00pm 9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm		Frippersy 9:30 am – 12:30pm  Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	Grow Together Gathering - Fisher Hall
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship Service 10am "What's Brewing?"  AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00-4:00pm  Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm  AA/SA 7:30pm		Frippersy 9:30am -12:30pm  Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am  AA 8:30pm	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship Service 10am Ordination Service for Michael 2:00pm  AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00 - 4:00pm  Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm  Book Group 7:00pm 9:00pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm		Frippersy 9:30am -12:30pm  Choir 7:30pm AA 7:30pm	AA 8:30pm	
28	29	30	31			
Worship Service 10am  AA 8:00pm	Grief Recovery Group Fisher Hall 2:00 -4:00pm  Women's AA 7:30pm	Frippersy 9:30am - 12:30pm  AA/SA 7:30pm				