



HILLTOPICS – JUNE 2018

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR...

If you've been by the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church recently, you've seen what I think is a wonderful banner on the side of the church. The banner says, "Why Church?". What a great question to make you stop and think. And, it's an unusual one to be on a banner at that. You'd expect it to say, "Got Church?", or maybe, "See You Sunday". But, there it is, "Why Church?" right by a church!

It seems to me we would do well to constantly question, "Why Church?" and not take for granted we know the answer. Discerning the purpose for the Church's existence isn't ever a done deal. There needs to be a constant reassessing of whether we've got a handle on our "why". What's the pulse, the heartbeat of our life together? What do we live for and why can't we live without it? How does God work through all that we are and all that we do? Are we on track with what God wants at this time, in this place, with the gifts and abilities God asks us to bring to the table?

You know the reason we even we get to pursue this kind of reflection time and time again, don't you? Jesus never provided a blueprint for what the Church was supposed to look like. He never said anything about exactly how we were to come together and serve in his stead. So much was left to be figured out through God's Spirit working through his followers' energy, enthusiasm, time and commitment. Wouldn't it have been so much easier for all concerned if Jesus had given specific directives along the lines of, "this is exactly the way you need to become the Church after I'm no longer with you". But, that never happened.

And maybe the good news is that the onus has always been on us, his body here on earth, to do the figuring out needed. Thus, we are on a learning curve that began over 2,000 years ago and shows no signs of stopping. That learning curve means that sometimes we will forget what is most important in what we do. Sometimes we will focus too heavily on things that keep us inward focused rather than outward focused. Sometimes we will forget to even ask, "is this what God wants for his community?" Through it all, all the figuring it out, we find however our hearts stretched open more and more and more. Perhaps this is the only way to grow-up in God's love. When we aren't spoon fed all the answers, we have the opportunity to experience our own transformation.

Recently we celebrated Pentecost which is known as the birthday of the Church. Birthdays are fun, but it's how you age into the next days, and months that show the way the birthday matters. Let's all honor our recent birthday by living the question "Why Church?" honestly and continually because I for one believe that the way we answer it keeps us honest, and on the important path of growing more and more into God's love for us and for all. And that growing never, ever ends!

Faithfully Yours, Barbara

Communion Sunday

The Sacrament of Communion June 3rd, 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.

SUMMER SUNDAYS...

Join us for Worship in Fisher Hall in the summer, Sunday, June 24th-September 2nd! As always, the time is 10AM.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR...

Happy Summer!

Every summer, planning in our youth and family ministry department shifts gears. We love making room for our families to enjoy their summer together. Summer is such a critical time for families to reconnect and deepen who they are as a family. Even I am going to have a brand new family summer experience as I take my new "blended" family on our first vacation together this June. It's really an exciting season for all of us and I don't want to miss a moment of the time...and I hope that for all our families. Here are some places we hope you will join with our extended family this summer:

The "Droege's" pre-wedding open house: Friday, June 15th from 7 until whenever is an open house to celebrate with our church families as well as some out of town guests who might want to celebrate with us in a relaxed atmosphere You can bring a small dish to share or your favorite beverage and we will simply have the house open to share some time before the big day.

The Droege wedding: Saturday, June 16th at 11:30am is the main event in the Chapel. Since the chapel is small we know we cannot host everyone, so we are opening up Fisher Hall for a live stream overflow event if you wanted to be with us that day. We will also be streaming the moment on Facebook live. So feel free to celebrate "with" us in a way that works best for you if you are able.

The Droege's post wedding after party: Saturday at 3 PM until whenever is our big celebration where anyone is invited. Feel free to join us for an afternoon of music, dancing, and joyous celebration at the manse. Any questions you can reach out to Michael at wilsonyouthandfamily@gmail.com.

We will be returning from our celebrations together in time for our ONE DAY IN BABYLON event on July 1st! We were not able to have our normal VBS this year, but we are following Daniel in COURAGE and having a one day event! We will turn our worship space into ancient Babylon and then follow the fun outside to the Wilson Woods for food, crafts, fun, and regular visits to Daniel's house to hear more of the story!

The event is free but we are asking people to register on the event website <https://vbspro.events/p/events/onedayinbabylon> or through our church website. Enjoy each other this summer as you look for God and create memories! Blessings Michael

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT...

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop

What is it about springtime that we are more willing to reach out to others in need? Maybe we smile more when we see the grass turn green, leaves unfurl on the trees, and flowers open joyfully? It doesn't matter what time of the day or what time of year, kindness is just plain joyful. Reach out to a neighbor who needs a ride to the store, or to move something. Reach out to a stranger by opening the door when their hands are full or not. Allow someone to cut in front of you when you are driving, even if the person behind you honks their horn. Fill a bag of groceries to donate to Starfish, with a complete day's food for a family, not just a few cans of corn or beans. Kindness to others reflects back on yourself, and does not require acknowledgment or a pat on the back. Kindness is contagious – a smile goes a long way.

It's not our job to play judge and jury, to determine who is worthy of our kindness and who is not. We just need to be kind, unconditionally and without ulterior motive, even - or rather, especially - when we'd prefer not to be. *Josh Radnor*

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Monetti

BOARD BRIEFS...

1. **MINISTER'S REPORT** – Barbara began by mentioning a big highlight since our last Board meeting. The bell concert Pam Cox arranged for May 6th was a wonderful event. It was a beautiful thing for three churches to combine around the love of music. The concert was very well attended and the potluck after was packed. We all owe Pam a debt of gratitude for organizing such a successful event! Of course, we thank all of our furniture movers and arrangers as well!!
2. It was a personal joy for Barbara to have her daughter join her in the service on Mother's Day. Ali has just completed her first year of a Master of Divinity program at Union Theological seminary in NYC.
3. There will be an upcoming Chapel Wednesday June 6th. Come to the Chapel at 7:15pm for a contemplative experience of spoken reflection, guided meditation and silence. The gatherings last 45 minutes. Invite others to join you!!
4. The last evening Grief Recovery group will meet on June 5th. Barbara is very inspired by the 9 folks who have been on this very important journey together. She also began a

day Grief Recovery group for those who were unable to come in the evening. That group is meeting Tuesday afternoons at 1pm and will for 8 weeks until the end of June. Her plan is to offer another Grief Recovery series in the fall and to do a good job of promoting it outside of our church community. Barbara is available for Grief Recovery one-to-one meetings for members of our congregation. That is a 7 session program, each one lasting about an hour. She is also a Spiritual Director and does private spiritual direction. Please see her if interested!

5. **YOUTH AND FAMILY DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – VBS is being planned this year as "VBS In A Day" on a Sunday, July 1st.
6. Inter-generational team – looking into program for 2018-2019 school year. The team is looking at how we sign people up for programs – currently we just advertise and hope people come.
7. **FACILITIES** – Tony Cito reported the church cleanup was a success, with many church friends and Scouts helping.
8. Paul and Tony are experimenting in the Chapel with LED lights vs. current incandescent lights; Tony met with an electrician to get scaffolding or other safe equipment for dealing with lighting.
9. The trees in front of the Frippery are still scheduled to be taken down and mulch to go on the trail behind the church parking lot, as soon as the tree company is done with dealing with the Nor'easter damage.
10. Sample UV films were voted on by the congregation and it was decided that the darker film would be installed on the windows facing the lake, and the lighter film to be on the windows and doors facing the Memorial Garden. This will be scheduled for installation. The cleaning company will be notified that only soap and water can be used to clean the interior windows, and we will need wording in rental contracts regarding no tape or adhesive to windows and a policy document for church regarding cleaning with only water.
11. Electricians were in for emergency lighting in restrooms and spotlights to be repaired/replaced by Memorial Garden that were broken by landscapers.
12. **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** – Keith McNally presented the updated church membership roll to the board for approval. This was accepted by the board.
13. **MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT** – The Eagle Scout project of the History room has been started. The project for the addition of fencing along the Manse drive to the corner of Fisher Hall, along with benches and planters has been reviewed by the Facilities group and is in process of being formalized to be presented to the Board and MEC for approval.
14. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – The emergency response team will be researching companies to submit a bid for installing an emergency generator.
15. **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE** – A proposal was made to hire Susan Sparks, a comedian-speaker for a fundraiser on May 4, 2019. This event would be well marketed to the wider community and ticket prices would be set to cover cost of hiring Susan with a business ad journal as the bulk of the fundraising. A suggestion was made to include bringing in canned goods for Starfish.

CHAPEL WEDNESDAYS CONTINUE IN JUNE...

Join Barbara on **June 6th** in the Chapel from 7:15pm -8:00pm. We live such hectic lives, consider this your time for personal renewal. Chapel Wednesdays are held on the first Wednesday of the month as schedules allow. Each evening gathering 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 are welcome to use for your own private prayer practice. Printed instructions are always available for the practice of Centering Prayer. The theme for June 6th is "Rest". Please invite anyone you think might be interested! Chapel Wednesday's will begin again October 3rd.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...

Youth Sunday, Teachers Appreciation Day ended the current Sunday School session but it was a special day for all. The students who received their own personalized Bible were Emily Hauck, Samuel Hunsinger, James Lyons, Raeann Lyons and Emelia Wighard. We, once again, would like to say thank you so very much to all our teachers, substitutes and those who gave of their time this 2017 – 2018 Church School year.

We also thank everyone for the kind words of appreciation as we retired from the position of Directors of the Sunday School. We confirm to all that we only retired from that position and can now see everyone during the entire Worship Service.

We have a wonderful Church program, thanks to each and every one of you.

This has been a wonderful experience over all these years and we acknowledge that it was the many members of our congregation that made the Sunday School memorable to us as well as the many students over all these years.

Love in Christ,

Arlene and Roger Seidel

SPECIAL POTLUCK IN HONOR OF ARELENE AND ROGER...

Join us for a very special potluck to honor Arlene and Roger's over 28 years of service! It will be right after the Worship Service June 3rd. Bring a dish to share.

BLANKETS+ MOTHER'S DAY FUND DRIVE UPDATE...

I'd like to extend a personal "Thank You" to all of you who made a monetary contribution to this year's Mother's Day Blankets+ fundraiser. Due to your generosity, \$1,050.00 has been donated toward this Outreach Project. There is a strong possibility that there are still individuals who haven't handed in their checks, so this amount could even increase! All the monies will be turned over to Church World Services who will in turn use these funds to assist individuals as well as communities as they face emergency situations around the world. Again, thank you for your generous support of this vital and much needed outreach project.

Pam Cox, Chairperson

Supporting Wilson Church is Easy!

We recently received a \$5.00 donation based on purchases made through **smile.amazon.com** and targeted for Wilson Memorial!
It may seem small, but purchases add up.



- Do you shop at Amazon.com?
- Each time you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to Wilson Memorial.
- Exact same prices, products and service using your existing account on Amazon.com

Getting started is as easy as 1-2-3

1. Go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.
2. Log into your regular Amazon account
3. Search and select
"Mary Wilson Mem Church Treasurer"

Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

THE FRIPPERY THRIFT SHOP...

The Frillery is the yellow house in the top parking lot and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-12:30pm and first Saturday of the month, through June. We will be open Saturday, June 2nd from 9:30am-12:30pm. Tuesday, June 5th and LAST DAY Thursday June 7th from 9:30-12:30.

As we wind down we have some crazy end of the year sales ! By the time you read this ,,, on Saturday June 2nd we'll be having our WORLD FAMOUS < FILL A LEVEL Kings grocery bag for \$10.00!!! LEVEL BAG (except jewelry, which is 1/2 price),,, dishes, china, frames, linens, doo dads, crystal, Lenox, kitchen items, games, books, CDs , DVDs ... THIS IS THE TIME TO STOCK UP FOR kids going to college, your beach house , your lake house , etc. On Tuesday June 5th. the sale will be \$5.00 FILL A LEVEL KINGS grocery bag!!!! On Thursday June 7th we will clear out to the bare walls with 90% off and selling things in "lots" such as EVERYTHING IN THE KIDS room for \$5-\$10(for IT ALL) Whatever is left we will post on Facebook again for a LARGE carload full for \$10 (if there's anything left)

Our clothing currently is \$5.00 per LEVEL bag ,,, by June it's \$1 a bag while supply lasts. As you can see we clear out to the rafters and spend Thursdays in the summer meeting to wash curtains, wash windows, clean, dust, spit shine and restock for September. It is a MONUMENTAL job and never could get done without the 12 or so volunteers that give their time in the summer. Come see us one of our final SELLING DAYS in June :) have a healthy and happy summer!

STARFISH ...

With summer approaching many school children lose their free lunches that are normally provided at school lets help Starfish with additional boxes of cereal , peanut butter and Jelly and tuna over the warm summer months. The Frippery will be donating \$500 in cash to help offset the reduction of donations while folks are away on vacation AND at the end of June we'll start out the donation with 25 Jars of jelly, 25 jars of Peanut butter, 25 boxes of cereal and 25 cans of tuna . Have a healthy and happy summer from all of us at The Frippery :)

WOMEN'S GUILD...

Women's Guild will hold their **June Potluck Picnic** on **Thursday, June 7th at 11:30 am**. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share. Beverages supplied. The program will be **THE POWER OF PLANTS** presented by the Somerset County Environmental Center at **12:30 pm**. These programs are informative and interesting. All are welcome, women and men alike!

COVENANT COMMITTEE...

The Covenant Committee will be holding its Blood Drive this summer on Saturday, August 11 from 8:00am to 2:00pm in the Exempt Hall on Mountain Blvd. in Watchung. Signs will be out and we hope you'll plan to attend. There is always a great need for this vital donation. Thanks so much for your help and caring. See you there! Fran Ellis

LOOK FOR BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IN THE FALL!

Our church is such a busy place! Because of scheduling issues, we are now planning to hold our Blessing of the Animals in the fall. Do you love animals? Would you like to work on planning the celebration? Please don't hesitate to let Barbara know of your interest!



SYMPATHY...

We extend our sympathy to the family of Florence Bernhardt who died on April 30th. A service was held at Wilson Memorial Church on May 10th.

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Michael Kontra who died on January 27th. Michael was a member of Wilson Memorial Church. A Memorial service was held here on May 27th.



PERSONAL ITEMS...

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

June 2018

Wilson Memorial Church Monthly Activities

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Memorial Service Sanctuary -11am
3 Worship Service 10am Communion Potluck After Service Eagle Scout Project 2-5pm Rm 4 AA 8:00pm	4	5 Frippery 9:30am-12:30pm Grief Recovery Class 1- 2:30pm & 7-9pm Fisher Hall Boy Scouts Meeting-Library 7:30pm AA/SA 7:30pm	6 Chapel Wednesday 7:15-8:00pm Boy Scouts Meeting-Library 7:30pm	7 Women's Guild Meeting 11:30am Last Day Of Frippery 9:30am12:30pm AA 7:30pm	8 AA 8:30pm	9 Eagle Scout Project 2-5pm Rm 4
10 Worship Service 10am GS Meeting 1:30 – 4:00pm AA 8:00pm	11 Executive Board Meeting 7:30pm	12 Grief Recovery Class 1- 2:30pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	13	14 AA 7:30pm	15 Men's Breakfast Country Squire 9am Michael and Carol's Open House – Manse 7pm AA 8:30pm	16 Michael & Carol's Wedding – Chapel 11:30am Wedding Celebration at Manse 3pm
17 Worship Service 10am Father's Day AA 8:00pm	18 Crest Haven Academy Graduation Sanctuary & Fisher Hall	19 Grief Recovery Class 1--2:30pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	20	21 AA 7:30pm	22 Summer Office Hours Begin – Labor Day Eagle Scout Project 2-5pm Rm 4 AA 8:30pm	23 Eagle Scout Project 2-5pm Rm 4
24 Worship Service 10am Eagle Scout Project 2-5pm Rm 4 AA 8:00pm	25	26 Grief Recovery Class 1-2:30pm Fisher Hall AA/SA 7:30pm	27	28 AA 7:30pm	29 AA 8:30pm	30