



Chestnut Hill Views

Whoever you are and
wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!



Chestnut Hill Church

Chestnut Hill Church
6870 Chestnut Hill Church Rd
Coopersburg, PA 18036
610-967-1196

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Discipleship: Taking off the Old and Putting On the New

George Whitefield (1714-1770), an Anglican priest and friend of John and Charles Wesley, was probably the most famous preacher throughout the American colonies. Under his ministry, a revival known as the Great Awakening spread and flourished during first half of the 18th century. This was the era of Jonathon Edwards in New England, the founding of the Moravian settlements of Nazareth (1740) and Bethlehem (1741) in the Lehigh Valley, and the founding of Princeton University (1756). He also established an orphanage in Georgia and together with Benjamin Franklin founded the University of Pennsylvania in

Philadelphia (1740) where a statue of Whitefield still stands within a dorm quadrangle.

His concern for a transformed, spiritual life is described in a brief quotation from a letter he wrote when he was only 21 years old. Both he and the quotation from Colossians that follows describe moving away from sin and moving towards God's kingdom values. Colossians uses the metaphor of clothing—taking off the old and putting on the new. This takes time and effort. I suggest that faithful biblical worship is a crucial part in that transformation. How different our lives would be if we would live more faithfully to these ancient traditions of Whitefield and the New Testament! In our culture of “instant results,” the

gratification of all our desires and the demand for an easy life, these ideas and his words sound outdated and puritanical.

Because the Gospel runs counter to all human culture, it is all the more important that we
(continued page 2)

In this issue:

1. Pastor's Desk	1-2
2..Church Updates	3-4
3. Look Ahead	5
4. Did You Know?	7
5. Medical News	8
6. Calendar	9

FROM THE PASTOR DESK *(continued)*

heed these words at a time when they will be received by many as unpopular. God calls us to long term discipleship that requires us to put God first and our pleasures, our personal goals, and even our own lives second. In the past few weeks I quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." This common biblical metaphor, "dying to self," became literally true for Bonhoeffer. He died at the hands of the Nazi Gestapo in 1945 for his resistance against the evil of Hitler, just one month before the Allies liberated the camp in which he had been imprisoned. Great women and men throughout history have always placed God first above anything else in this world.

"The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance. It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down. But then, methinks, this would be an odd way of reasoning, "Because a thing requires some pains, I therefore will never set about it." No, Sir, rather up and be doing. Exert your utmost efforts at your first setting out, and take my word, your strength as well as resolution will increase daily." George Whitefield, *Letters of Rev, George Whitefield*, Letter VI to Mr. H, March 6, 1735.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things

above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Colossians 3:1-14, *The Holy Bible: New International Version*. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1973, 1978, 1984.

Pastor John

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking Account as of
12/31/10 \$7,856.71

Building fund
12/31/10 \$ 365.67

Special Savings Account
12/31/10 \$20,784.04

Investment Accounts
Ameriprise
\$ 55,726.70

Hoff Endowment
\$156,290.48

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2010 saw some changes. A second service which began at 5:00 pm was introduced. There were 47 people who attended this service which was wonderful. There were a few differences from the 7:30 pm service which made this early service unique.

The traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service was held at 7:30 pm.

Between the two services, this was one of the highest attended Christmas Eve services.



Chestnut Hill Updates

Newsletters:

The newsletters will once again be mailed to all church members. We did try sending the newsletter by email. That worked well for those who have computers. This was also an attempt to save postage costs. However, many of our members still do not have computers, so we will once again be mailing the newsletters. Here are the news updates for those who did not receive the newsletters.

On June 6 the eight stained glass windows were dedicated. Titled "Seasons of Faith", the eight windows use trees to remind us of the four seasons of the year, of our lives, and of our faith. The service included a discussion of their meanings, appropriate hymns and choral music was used to celebrate this milestone in our two-hundred-year history. The public was invited and many visitors came for the event. A reception was held after the dedication.

June 26 - our memorial garden was part of a local garden tour. It was truly an honor to share our beautiful garden and the work of our garden committee with the community. Members of the garden committee were tour guides to show our visitors the garden. We had many visitors and the follow up responses were very favorable.

The visitors also had a tour of our church sanctuary so they could see our beautiful stained glass windows.

A HUGE thank you to all those who helped with the garden tour and the church tour.

September 11 - we had a Chicken BBQ

September 25 - The Outreach and communications committee sponsored a piano concert, featuring Pianist James Correnti. Mr. Correnti studied at New York City's Juilliard School and was a soloist with the Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra and the Plainfield Symphony (NJ). It was a wonderful evening of music and a reception was held after the concert.

September 25 - Betsey Schmeltzle coordinated the Chestnut Hill Tent at the Lower Milford Fall Festival. Her idea of serving "fruit cups" was a huge success. Many thanks to Betsey and all the other members who helped at the festival.

October 2 - Debbie Koder and Ken Debus coordinated the Annual Yard Sale. The Yard Sale was very successful with a large amount of money that helped pay the oil bill for the upcoming season. Thanks to Debbie, Ken and all the other helpers at the yard sale, food stand, and bake sale.

Worship services

September - May

Sunday Schedule is:

8:00 am	Communion every Sunday
9:00 am	Bible Study
10:00 am	Worship Communion 1st Sunday of the month
10:15 am	Sunday Schl
11:15 am	Meet & Greet



Summer Worship

During the Summer, our Sunday services time changes to 9:00 am.

The last two years Pastor John has conducted a Saturday night worship service at 6:30 pm. This was worked well for a number of our members.

THANKS SO MUCH

Pastor John thanks the congregation for their generous Christmas gift. I am deeply grateful and humbled to have the privilege of ministering among you. I sense a deep bond of affection between us that I hope and pray will grow ever stronger over the coming years as we labor together to bring compassion and healing to a troubled world in great need. Thank you!

Thank you for the generous gift at Christmas. God bless you. God Loves you.
Margaret

Pat would like to thank the church council for the generous Christmas gift. The gift is very much appreciated.

Recycling

Printer ink & toner cartridges can be brought to church for recycling. We have been receiving on the average of \$60.00 per month from this recycling. The money is used to purchase office supplies for the church office.

Aluminum cans can be brought to the church and Glenn Snyder will recycle them. The money is placed in the general fund.

The Paper Recycling Bin is located across the street from the church.

All are welcome to bring your paper to be recycled.

NO phone books and NO cardboard, please!!

The church will receive \$5.00 per ton of paper.

A new year brings a new calendar, or 2 or 3 or more!
If you have **extra calendars** that you do not need, please bring them to church and place them on the printer cartridge recycling box.
They will be given to our local nursing homes for their residents.
thank you

Weis gift cards and Giant Gift Cards can be ordered! Chestnut Hill Church will receive 5% of our total order. You can place your order with Terry Miller at church or call him at 610-967-1392 or you can also place your order with Sherri Miller at church or call 610-797-8231 or email Sherri at: dcba25@mailstation.com

The 2011 Budget was passed by a vote of 59 "yes" and 3 "no". It is a challenging budget. We are asking all Chestnut Hill members for their continued support.

Choices: Living with a Positive Attitude

Read this, and let it really sink in. . . Then choose how you start your year this week. . .

Jerry is the kind of guy you love to hate. His is always in a good mood and always has something positive to say. When someone would ask him how he was doing, he would reply, "If I were any better, I would be twins!" He was a unique manager because he had several waiters who had followed him around from restaurant to restaurant. The reason the waiters followed Jerry was because of his attitude. He was a natural motivator. If an employee was having a bad day, Jerry was there telling the employee how to look on the positive side of the situation.

Seeing this style really made me curious, so one day I went up to Jerry and asked him, "I don't get it! You can't be a positive person all of the time. How do you do it?" Jerry replied. "Each morning I wake up and say to myself, Jerry, you have two choices today. You can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. I choose to be in a good mood. Each time something bad happens, I can choose to be a victim or I can choose to learn from it. I choose to learn from it. Every time someone comes to me complaining, I can choose to accept their complaining or I can point out the positive side of life. I choose the positive side of life." "Yeah, right, it's not that easy," I protested. "Yes it is," Jerry said, "Life is all about choices. When you cut away all the junk, every situation is a choice. You choose how you react to situations. you choose how people will affect your mood. You choose to be in a good mood or bad mood. The bottom line. It's your choice how you live life."

I reflected on what Jerry said. Soon thereafter, I left the restaurant industry to start my own business. We lost touch, but I often thought about him when I made a choice about life instead of reacting to it.

Several years later, I heard that Jerry did something you are never supposed to do in a restaurant business: he left the back door open one morning and was held up at gunpoint by three armed robbers. While trying to open the safe, his hand, shaking from nervousness, slipped off the combination. The robbers panicked and shot him. Luckily, Jerry was found relatively quickly and rushed to the local trauma center. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks of intensive care, Jerry was released from the hospital with fragments of the bullets still in his body. I saw Jerry about six months after the accident. When I asked him how he was, he replied, "If I were any better, I'd be twins. Wanna see my scars?"

I declined to see his wounds, but did ask him what had gone through his mind as the robbery took place. "The first thing that went through my mind was that I should have locked the back door." Jerry replied. "Then, as I lay on the floor, I remembered that I had two choices: I could choose to live or I could choose to die. I chose to live."

"Weren't you scared? Did you lose consciousness?" I asked.

Jerry continued, "...the paramedics were great. They kept telling me I was going to be fine. But when they wheeled me into the ER and I saw the expressions on the faces of the doctors and nurses, I got really scared. In their eyes, I read 'he's a deadman'. I knew I needed to take action."

"What did you do?" I asked.

"Well, there was a big burly nurse shouting questions at me," said Jerry. "She asked if I was allergic to anything.' Yes' I replied. The doctors and nurses stopped working as they waited for my reply. I took a deep breath and yelled, 'Bullets!' Over their laughter, I told them, 'I am choosing to live. Operate on me as if I am alive, not dead'."

Jerry lived thanks to the skill of his doctors, but also because of his amazing attitude. I learned from him that every day we have the choice to live full. Attitude, after all, is everything.

Author unknown

