



# Chestnut Hill Views

## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings all!

What an amazing summer it has been. We have had the fortunate opportunity to be in fellowship together in the relative cool of the Fellowship Hall and have explored the life of one of the most prolific founding fathers of the faith in King David. If you couldn't join us this summer, we explored King David's life from the time of when he was anointed by Samuel all the way through the vast majority of his leadership as King of Israel. We learned a lot about David and even a little about ourselves. Keep an eye on our sermon website as I am hoping to post these sermons in the coming month.

As we move into the fall, there is so much to look toward. I am already in the planning phases for our worship services in November and December as we venture into Advent and celebrating the birth of Christ together this year. Before we get there though, there is some work to be done.

This fall, we will begin exploring more about who we are and where we are going as we participate in the vitality workshops sponsored by our Conference. We will join with 19 other congregations as we explore our vital ministry directly related to worship, stewardship, evangelism, and renewal. If you are able to join us, check out the information later in this newsletter, there is still room in our group.

I also want us to be aware of all that is going on around us...there is so much pain and sorrow in and among our family, our neighbors, and our country. It is hard as a pastor to sit and watch people fight amongst each other and stand on opposite sides of an issue. Yet, as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian, I realize that so much information and news is at my fingertips, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks out of the year. And our response to all this news is often to sit back and wonder what we can do to change things or to make this world a better place to live for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. I wonder if any of us ever really thinks that we can make a difference in this world. As a family of faith, I pray continually that God would reveal to us a way to reach into the dark places of this world and our communities to provide just an ounce of light so that we can help some to climb out of their own private, dark place. In that vein, I also pray that God reveals to each one of us a way to reach out and touch lives. We may never know how one simple act can save a life...

One other thought...we are a family and just like a family, we sometimes need to look at where we are to know where we are going. I encourage all of us to continue to build relationships with one another, to join in on the activities that we have coming up, and generally be a family of faith together. I am reminded of a statement made by one of our own greatest leaders in this country, Abraham Lincoln, when he said, "If a **house** is **divided** against itself, that **house** cannot stand." This statement comes from the Gospel of Mark (3:25). I pray that we always stand united together...

Peace and blessings, Pastor Christian

## **Conference Happenings:**

**Vitality Days:** There is still room and opportunity for you to represent Chestnut Hill Church as part of the Conference sponsored Workshops addressing our vitality as a community of faith. All dates are on a Saturday, will be held at Jordan UCC in Trexlertown (right on Rte.309), and run from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. The dates and topics are:

Sept 22: Worship

Nov 10: Stewardship

Mar 23: Evangelism

May 18: Renewal

**Call to Fall Annual Meeting:** Our Conference Fall Business meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3 from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at Faith UCC in Hazelton. As with all Conference meetings, we are entitled to one delegate in addition to Pastor Christian. If you are interested in representing Chestnut Hill in this vital mission for our Conference, please see Pastor Christian for the details.

**Mission Trip to Puerto Rico:** A group is forming from PNEC and PSEC to do some repair and recovery work in Puerto Rico. As you know, Puerto Rico was hardest hit by two major hurricanes last summer. Our brothers and sisters in this island country are still trying to recover from those storms. Please contact the Conference Office if you are interested in participating in these mission trips. [barbaraj@pnec.org](mailto:barbaraj@pnec.org)

## **Other Announcements:**

**War Room Video/Bible Study:** We are planning to hold a five or six week DVD study surrounding the movie “War Room”. This study will ask us to dig deep within ourselves and look for ways that we can be better prayer warriors for our own lives as well as the lives of those we touch and reach out to in our community. Pastor Christian will lead the study sometime after Advent and Christmas to prepare us for Lent. Keep an eye on future newsletters and bulletins for more information on this study.

**Thrivent Choice Program:** Chestnut Hill United Church of Christ is now enrolled in Thrivent Choice®. Thrivent Choice is a member-advised program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars® Chestnut Hill Church in a particular month, Thrivent Financial reviews the recommendation and makes an electronic deposit into our account. Those funds may be used to carry out the religious, charitable or educational purposes without restriction. If you are a member of Thrivent Choice and would like to make your choice dollars work for the church, please make sure to select Chestnut Hill Church from the online catalog and help us to build up funds through this program.

**Hi Folks**, I hope everyone enjoyed the summer, time to move to a different season with much cooler temperatures, we can only hope! Our Whine Women & Worry group has been very busy over the summer. We have been hard at work trying to reach out to the community. In July & August we sponsored an elementary school in the Allentown area with school supplies and uniform tops. In September our very own Heather Vasilik Clark and her family also known as the Cupcake Crew will be walking in memory of Eddie Vasilik at Lehigh Parkway to raise funds and awareness for the Lustgarten Foundation Pancreatic Cancer Research. We will be collecting donations for this walk. If you are interested, please consider donating \$1.00, \$5.00, whatever you are able to, every penny makes a difference. There will be a donation basket placed in the rear of the sanctuary.

Our group meeting September 17 will be held in the sanctuary. We will be having a special presentation by Catherine Hernandez of Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley. Turning Point is an organization that helps women deal with issues of Domestic Violence. Come out and join us for this event at 6:30, light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

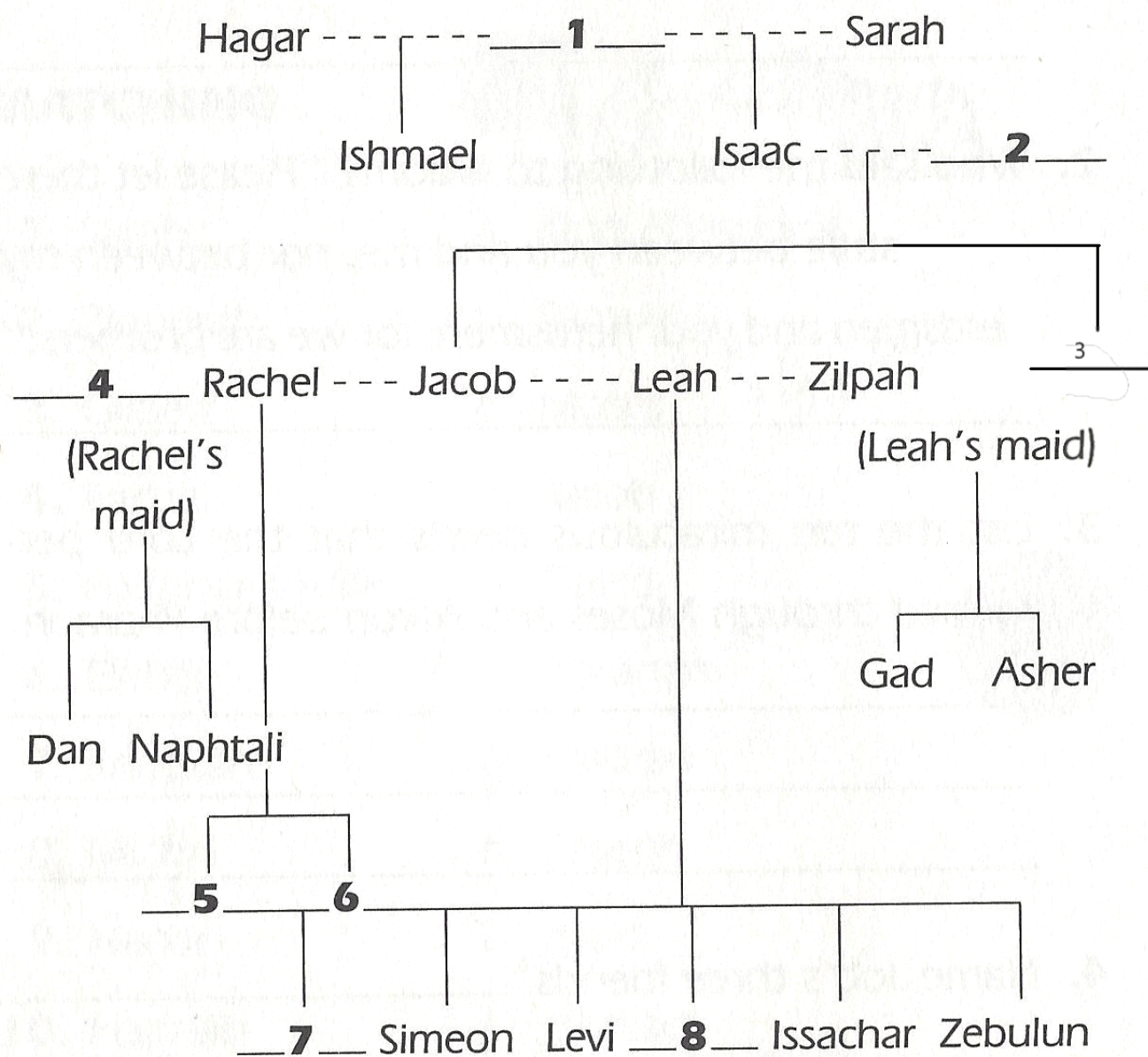
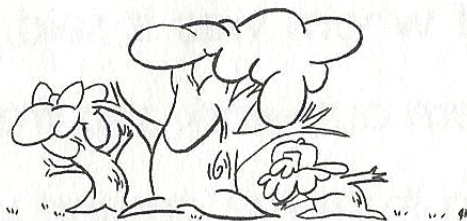
In October we will be preparing for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Spaghetti Dinner/Basket Raffle which will be held on November 17 from 4-6 in the fellowship hall. If you are crafty and would like to make a basket for the event it would be greatly appreciated, plan to have your baskets at the church by November 12 so we have them in time for the set up on Friday evening. Spaghetti and sauce will be collected the month of October, there will be a donation spot in the fellowship hall for these items. Dinner is free, invite your friends & neighbors, consider it a night away from the kitchen! Tickets for the baskets will be sold for 15.00 per sheet or 2 sheets for 20.00. 50% of our profits will be donated to a local charity which hasn't yet been determined, watch future bulletins for our charity choice. If you have any questions or need more information please see Stephanie Creyer.

Lastly, we have another Dinner Theatre trip to the Pines in Allentown to see Walkin in a Winter Wonderland. Show date Sunday, November 18 at 2:00. Show, Dinner & Gratuity 49.00 per person. Sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall, money is due by November 2, checks can be made payable to Stephanie Creyer.

I would just like to thank the congregation for all of your generosity for the things that we are trying to accomplish. Let's strive to reach out to the community and let them know that we are a loving & caring church where everyone is welcome.

### Bible Trivia:

## FILL IN THE FAMILY TREE



## Who am I ?

Each month Stephanie will be “interviewing” one of our members in an effort to get to know everyone at Chestnut Hill. As part of that process, Stephanie will also write up a “story” of that person’s life for the newsletter. Let’s see how much you know about your fellow Chestnut Hill family members.

### **July Congregation Corner Member:**

Greetings to all of my fellow congregation members! I was born in a small rural village within Lower Milford Township. Chestnut Hill has always been a family church which I have been attending for over 70 years. The friendliness of everyone in attendance and similar backgrounds was something that was easy for us as a family to relate to. I tend to several things around the church and outside as well. I am always willing to help out with whatever I can. All you have to do is ask! I have several hymns which I enjoy very much, even though I can’t carry a tune. Jesus Loves Me, I Go to the Garden Alone, Precious Lord Take my Hand, just to name a few. I enjoyed the Summer Picnics with food, games and music. I miss the full attendance of Sunday School and Church Services.

I especially enjoy walking early in the morning and listening to the birds and seeing so many other animals roaming at that time of day. It is a good time to plan my activities for the day and quiet time just for me. At home, I enjoy sitting on the front porch with my coffee early in the day and on the deck after sundown perhaps with a beer or two.

What I remember most about my childhood is having a close, sharing relationship with my many siblings during our childhood. That perhaps was the best lesson during difficult times for many families at that time. It taught me to be thankful and appreciate the things that count. My siblings and I are still very close today.

My favorite vacation spot since I enjoy walking would be the walking expeditions through the Alps in Switzerland and the rural Cotswolds of England. I enjoy watching baseball and football from my recliner.

Saving the best for last, I am married to my wonderful spouse for 50 years, I have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. If I were stranded on a deserted island, all I would need would be water, sneakers, and something to keep me warm at night since I am always cold.

Who am I?



## **August Congregation Corner Member:**

Summer blessings to my church family! My mother attended church here on a regular basis, that is how I ended up here. I have many fond memories of church. When I was a young child I would attend Vacation Bible School, I also sang on the choir. I enjoyed the Sunday school picnics and the choir hayrides. It would be nice if we could have a picnic or a hayride in the future. I have too many favorite hymns to mention them all, but my favorite bible passage is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. If I had the chance to meet Jesus, I would ask him how my mother is doing in heaven and for him to give her a great big hug from me.

Springtime is my favorite season, the flowers blooming representing rebirth. I have many hobbies. I enjoy traveling, crafts and concerts. I don't have a favorite vacation spot, I enjoy all the places that I visit. I really don't follow sports, however when it is NASCAR season, I watch the races with my Dad. I was born and raised in Allentown, I am married to my spouse for 31 years. We have 2 beautiful children and 2 furry babies. If I were stranded on a deserted island the 3 things I couldn't live without are water, food and a good companion...my dog.

Who am I?



### **We are going West in 2019!**

May 11-17, 2019- we are doing the Enchanting Canyons starting in Scottsdale Az and heading north to Sedona, Az, Oak Creek Canyon, AZ.

Up to Lake Powell in Utah with a cruise to Antelope Canyon, then to Bryce Canyon, UT, Zion National Park, UT and then to Las Vegas, NV.

If interested, see Debbie Koder 610-967-1975 Cost \$3000.00 pp estimated due to air fare not locked in yet. Some meals included, bus transportation, tips, hotels included.



Each month Stephanie will be “interviewing” one of our members in an effort to get to know everyone at Chestnut Hill. As part of that process, Stephanie will also write up a “story” of that person’s life for the newsletter. Let’s see how much you know about your fellow Chestnut Hill family members. Can you guess who our “interviewees” are for September & October?

### **September Congregation Corner Member:**

Hugs to all of my Chestnut Hill Church family! I am a person of few words so it may be easy to guess who I am, or maybe not? I was born in Allentown over 40 years ago, I am married a short time and my spouse means the world to me. I started to attend the church back in 2007 and I keep coming back, I find the congregation to be very friendly. Church has always been a special place for me, when I was a youngster I loved learning about the Bible. My favorite Bible passage is Romans 8:28 and I love to sing my heart out to How Great Thou Art & The King of my Shepherd Is. If I could meet Jesus I would ask him “Why am I here?”

In my free time I enjoy cooking, Seafood is one of my favorites to eat, maybe you can share some recipes with me. A good vacation spot for me is Knoebels Grove, Pocono Mountains or just spending a day away in Lancaster visiting the Turkey Hill Experience. A highlight from my youth is when I received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a school Spelling Bee.

Springtime is my favorite season, it is for renewal and new life and flowers and trees and warm weather and spring breezes. When asked about being stranded on a deserted island what 3 things could I not live without, they would be food, my Bible and my spouse!

Who am I?

**We want to thank everyone who helped at Betty Lou’s Pantry during the month of August. Many thanks to Tracy Zapach for organizing the pantry volunteers.**

**Help is also needed to take care of the garden at the church.** If you have some time please come to church and weed the gardens. If you need some help in identifying the weeds, please contact Helene Endy at: [hjlendy@ptd.net](mailto:hjlendy@ptd.net)

### ***Movie Nights:***

**September 21: *Fireproof*** - In an attempt to save his marriage, a firefighter uses a 40-day experiment known as "The Love Dare"

**October 26:** TBA

**November 30:** "The Star" - A small but brave donkey and his animal friends become the unsung heroes of the first Christmas. An animated movie all ages are sure to love!

### **Financial Report—July 31, 2018**

#### Checking Account

QNB checking     \$ 23,111.56 (Interest from Miller endowment was added to income)  
Building Fund     \$ 9,988.79  
Special Savings     \$ 50,011.24 (new mission check is in savings for now)

#### Investment Portfolio

Miller Endowment   \$ 426,801.15  
Hoff Endowment     \$ 206,401.72  
Ameriprise             \$ 9,376.84

**Bulletin Sponsorship:** Did you know that the weekly bulletins can be sponsored to help defray the cost of printing? There is an opportunity for you to sponsor a bulletin to help out the church and also honor a special day or special someone in your life. There is a sheet in the lower narthex to sign up to sponsor our weekly bulletins. The cost to sponsor the weekly bulletins is \$10 per Sunday and this contribution helps us to cover the cost of paper and toner to print the bulletins.

**Answers:**  
Answers: 1) Abraham; 2) Rebekah;  
3) Esau; 4) Bilhah; 5) Joseph; 6)  
Benjamin; 7) Reuben; 8) Judah



## October Congregation Corner Member:

A happy Autumn greeting to all!

I am married to my wonderful husband for nearly 50 years. We have two children: one boy/one girl, both very successful in their chosen careers. Five grandchildren: two girls/three boys; and three great-grandchildren: two girls/one boy. My greatest joy is spending time with my family.

I have always been an avid reader since childhood. Since I retired I have started volunteering at our local library, which allows me a greater opportunity to get my hands on hundreds of titles weekly. I volunteer at the local food bank biweekly stocking shelves, and I am the secretary for our homeowner's association. We babysit for our great-granddaughter one day a week--loads of fun but exhausting as well. I also knit/crochet hundreds of hats/scarves to donate to underprivileged/homeless folks every winter.

I love to hear the parables and the love that Jesus shares with ALL peoples. Not sure of the actual hymn titles, but "Is it I Lord? I am here Lord," "I walk in the Garden," "Amazing Grace." Also, although not hymns per se, I love "My God is an Awesome God," and "He Lifts Me Up." They touch my heart and bring me to tears every time.

I joined CHC about 50 years ago after I married my husband--CHC was his home church. I had been raised in a Union church, confirmed as UCC; then when the church split my parents went with the Lutherans. When I joined CHC it was as a Lutheran; now back to the UCC home team.

In the past we had done some family vacations to Corolla, Outer Banks. Those were the most fun and fulfilling spending time together with the extended family. Many years ago, we did some walking vacations in the Alps in Switzerland and through the Cotswold's in England; amazing way to see other countries and their cultures. It makes you realize just how spoiled and wasteful we are as Americans. I also was so enthralled with the pure nature of Alaska--so untouched my mankind--so beautiful. Truly God's canvas.

My family was very blue collar; my dad worked extremely hard, long hours. There was no money or time for vacations. So, on the rare occasion we did go somewhere as a family, it was camping in a tent. But we treasured those trips, usually with cousins, and it was very special. I also remember that Sunday's were always visiting relatives or going for "Sunday drives," often stopping for ice cream.

I look forward to meeting Jesus. Through prayer I feel his love daily and a sense of total peace overcomes me, so to be in his presence I can only imagine I would be so overwhelmingly encompassed with love and peace. If I could ask Jesus one question: why are humans so cruel to one another? Why do we refuse to see the example you set for us and feel love for one another instead of such hatred and brutality? How can people hurt the innocent, the precious babies and children and find pleasure in that?

If I'm stranded on an island it would be my family, but if that means I'm stranded alone, then it would have to be books, books and more books. And a big bottle of water.

Who am I?

**Grief Support Group** will meet on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the church.

**Intro to Bible Workshops:** This fall, we will have several workshops to introduce the Bible to all. There is no prerequisite understanding or knowledge needed. These sessions will be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall (after Fellowship time to allow for some quiet). We will cover topics like, what is in the Bible, how do you know if you have the “right” translation for you, what is that “stuff” at the bottom of the page, and how we got the Bible we have available to us. As we delve into introducing the Bible, we might discover some other topics that we might want to explore together. If you have ever wanted to read the Bible but did not think you could because it is too hard to understand, give one of these workshops a try! We will begin with our first Workshop after worship on October 7 beginning roughly at 11:30 AM and ending no later than 1:30PM. Bring a lunch with you!

**Lower Milford Fall Festival is Saturday Sept 22** and we need some volunteers to Help out. We will have food, yard sale items and baked goods.

You don't have to stay the whole day, only for an hour or two is very helpful.

Let Debbie Koder know if you are interested. 610-967-1975

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!** From the folks within the PNEC and PSEC! Because of your generosity, Pastor Christian has been able to deliver about 150 hygiene kits to folks in both conferences who need them the most after the devastating flooding that has occurred in the recent weeks. At this point, the folks of PNEC and PSEC still need your help. While the outpouring of love in the making of the hygiene kits has been extremely helpful, a different kind of help is now needed as folks begin the recovery process. PNEC and PSEC Disaster Recovery Ministry Teams are beginning to assess the damage and come up with a plan to help those hardest hit by the flooding. If you would like to give toward these recovery efforts, the following are ways that WE can get involved:

We can organize a work team or serve as a volunteer. For work in our conferences you can contact Conference Disaster Coordinator Karl Jones at 570-617-4018 – [kjones275@comcast.net](mailto:kjones275@comcast.net). Or you can go to [http://www.ucc.org/disaster\\_disaster-volunteers](http://www.ucc.org/disaster_disaster-volunteers) to discover more about any of the intermediate and long-term recovery volunteer opportunities that are currently open and seeking volunteers.

We can raise funds for this important work. In long-term recovery funding is always one of the best ways to respond. This funding will be used throughout the two conferences for the work of recovery. Funds can be sent to: Schuylkill Association Disaster Fund, in care of the Rev. Maureen Duffy-Guy, 618 Arlington St., Tamaqua, PA 18252-2202. Make check out to Schuylkill Association.

We can become a member of the Disaster Ministry Team. Contact Karl Jones for more information. Please keep everyone affected by and who will help in the recovery process in your prayers.