

The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 54, No. 5 May 2018



Thursday, May 3

Pray for America—UNITY

Our theme this year is based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Every president since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

The National Day of Prayer Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force is a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.



May 20, 10:30 a.m.

Our confirmands have completed a 2-year course of instruction in the faith.

They are:

Courtney Bratten

Kristin Gross

Jahkari Korchowsky

Rachael Moser

Casey Parke

Rachael Smith

Coming Events

Graduate Sunday
June 11

Vacation Bible School
June 25-29

Relay for Life
June 23-24

Prime Timers Sunday
June 24



**GROUP VBS 2018:
SHIPWRECKED**
RESCUED BY JESUS

June 25-29



Greetings, Shepherd! I hope this finds you well and blessed. If you're at all like me, you are no doubt ready for summer. This winter was fairly deceiving in that much of it came in early spring! However, it seems as if we're past the freezing weather, and warmer temperatures are starting to appear, and not a day too soon.

With the warmer temperatures comes the desire to get out and do more. Winter has a unique way of keeping us cooped up, and, with shorter days, it seems as if we get less done. It's easy to become lacking in motivation and desire, and less productive in general. Then, inevitably, the warmth returns and we get that boost of energy we need, and it feels great!

A few weeks ago I was in a Christian bookstore looking for something new to read (I'm always on the lookout for something new from David Jeremiah, or some other theology scholar) when I noticed something was amiss: there weren't many books. Keep in mind, this was a bookstore, and yet the majority of it was filled with knick-knacks and gifts, and all sorts of other things... but few books. Adding to my confusion, when I asked for the theology section, the attendant took me to a single shelf about 24 inches long and informed me that was all they had. I was shocked! This is a Christian bookstore after all, and they have almost nothing on Christian theology. I proceeded to ask why there was not more, to which I was told, "Our customers just aren't interested in theology anymore." I responded by asking what their customers *were* interested in, and was told the majority of their sales go to gifts (coffee cups, pencils, etc.), music, and fiction literature. Please don't misunderstand me, I enjoy this store and they are wonderful people, but what does it say about the current season of faith in the church when Christians aren't motivated to learn Christianity?

From what I learned at the Christian bookstore, it would appear the Christian church may be feeling a little less motivated than in the past. Perhaps it's the result of constant bombardment from the world. Perhaps it's because the world has grown colder to the church and it's easier to just bundle up and stay inside. Whatever the case, it seems as if the Christian church needs a boost of energy.

So let me encourage you, as we come into this summer and we start venturing outside and getting schedules back on track, to make time to also grow in your faith. And that is my prayer for you and for our church: that we would be energetically seeking to grow warmer in our relationship and our knowledge of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18) to the point we are on fire for God! With the warmer temperatures and the increased motivation to get moving, I pray you would let that also flow into your spiritual life and invigorate you for God.

Blessings,
Pastor Collin



Mother's Day Breakfast

May 13
915—10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Prime Timer Events

Fellowship Lunch

Thursday, May 24,
Lv. SOTH 11:15 a.m.
Rebecca's Home Cooked Meals
Narvon
Register on the Welcome Card

Montco-Berks Golden Age

Thursday, May 10
Hunterdon Hills
Show: "Steel Magnolias"



Wednesdays
6:30—8:30 p.m.

Children's Church

Pre-K to Grade 4—every Sunday
during the 10:30 a.m. service.

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

Children & Youth

Toddler—Room 14
3-4 year olds—Room 12
Grades 1-6—Room 24
Grades 9—12—Den
Confirmation Class (Grades 7-8)
Library

Adults

Adult—Room 25
Discussion—Parlor East
Spiritual growth—FH

MISSION REPORT

The **Mission Commitment Project** for May is Ruth Marks, formerly a missionary with WEC Radio Worldwide, based in England. She is currently working with a Christian theatre company both in production and training.

The **Vision Project** for May is God's Treasure House Ministries, a non-profit organization established to provide a comprehensive aftercare program targeted to women and children from the community and to ex-offenders returning from prison who are victims of domestic violence.



Boyertown Relay
for Life

Special Offering

Sunday, June 10



Youth Mission Trip

July 15—21

Easton, PA



Congo Community Blood Drive

Saturday, May 5

7:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

At St. Paul's Lutheran
Church, Sassamansville



<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Game</u>	<u>Location</u>
5/6 5 pm	Lighthouse CC vs SOTH	Eagle AA Field
5/20 3 pm	SOTH vs. Upper Perk CC	New Hanover Lutheran
5/27 2 pm	New Life BFC vs SOTH	Oley Valley High School
6/3 3 pm	SOTH vs New Hanover UMC	New Hanover Lutheran
6/10 3 pm	Mountain View Chapel vs SOTH	Mountain View Chapel
6/24 3 pm	SOTH vs Morning Star Gold	New Hanover Lutheran

*First team listed is Home Team

The Power of Pentecost

**Before Pentecost
the disciples found
it hard to do easy
things; after Pente-
cost they found it
easy to do hard
things.**

—A.J. Gordon

Bits and Pieces

Vacation Bible School dates for 2018 are June 25-29.

Please submit names of members who are graduating this spring from high school, college or other educational institutions to the church office. Information needs to be in the church office by the 20th of May in order to be included in the summer Shepherd's Staff. You may use the Welcome Card in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office to provide the name, school and degree earned.

Congratulations to Daniel and Breanna Little on the birth of Mariah Rose on April 12.

Congratulations to Lucas and Rachel Hahn on the birth of Arabella Aaliyah on April 23.

The Preschool Clothing Drive collected 3,588 pounds and earned \$719.92 for the Preschool.

The Roof Project which included a new roof over the sanctuary foyer, parlor, kitchenette and rest room

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.
Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.
Contemporary Service

May 20
Confirmation



Council of Elders

According to the New Testament, elders are responsible for the spiritual leadership and oversight of a church. We read in 1st Timothy 3:2-3 some of the qualifications of an elder; they must be above reproach, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. Here at Shepherd of the Hills we have been blessed with a group of elders who exemplify these characteristics and are committed to the spiritual wellbeing of the church.

The Elders of the church, once selected, serve for life. They hold monthly meetings to discuss important spiritual issues and discern God's will for the congregation. Their primary responsibilities, according to scripture, are to teach sound doctrine, lead through service, model the Christian lifestyle, and pray for the congregation. We can summarize the responsibilities of an elder this way: they seek to shepherd the congregation as Jesus shepherded his disciples.



L to R: Collin Monger, Jeff Moser, John Oister, Paul Yonkovitch, Jim Jessum, Vaughn Miller. Missing from photo: Bill Wilkins



He ascended into Heaven

Pastoral Staff

Collin Monger
Senior Pastor
Charles Rowden
Executive Associate Pastor
Lucas Hahn
Associate Pastor of Youth
James Jessum
Associate Pastor of Visitation

Shepherd of the Hills' regular office hours are Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

527 Hoffmansville Road
Bechtelsville, PA 19505
(610) 754-6446
www.soth.church

The Shepherd's Staff is published ten times a year by Shepherd of the Hills Church.