

Shepherd's Staff

Shepherd of the Hills Church

Volume 53, No. 1 • January 2017

***Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 8***



Michael V. Ciccocioppo, Jr. 1

Michael Ciccocioppo will be a guest speaker at our worship services on Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 8.

Michael has served as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation since 2002. He helps Pennsylvanians understand the truth behind abortion, infanticide and euthanasia. He energizes pro-lifers at the grassroots to work for a society that respects human life from conception to natural death.

Prior to this, he served as a professional hospital administrator from 1991 – 2002 as vice president at Holy Spirit Hospital in Camp Hill and from 1970 – 1991 in various positions and units on active duty in the United States Air Force Medical Service throughout the United States and Europe.

He has a Master of Health Administration degree from Baylor University. He is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and served on the professional society's international Council of Regents from 1995-2000.

A native of Pennsylvania, Michael was born and grew up in the greater Harrisburg area where he resides with his wife of 42 years, Peggy. They have four grown children and five grandsons. He is the eldest of 15 children. His father, Michael sr., is deceased. His mother, Blanche, also resides in the area and enjoys her 46 grandchildren and 27 (so far) great-grandchildren.

The Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federations, based in Harrisburg, is the statewide affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee. The Federation is non-profit, nonsectarian, and nonpartisan. It is the largest single-issue pro-life organization in the Commonwealth with over 40 countywide chapters and over 50,000 individual members.

From the Pastor

Well, hello Shepherd! Here we are and another year has come and gone. Goodbye 2016, hello 2017! And with the New Year doubtless you are making plans for holiday, birthdays, vacations, trips, outings and everything else that we fill our calendars with. For us, we look forward to Owen entering first grade; Sierra going to preschool; and Noah learning to walk and talk. We're looking forward to the summer and what things we might do, and already making plans for next Thanksgiving and Christmas



The beginning of the year means planning, and planning is good. Jesus would commend the kind of forethought involved in planning our lives. He said, *"For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it?"* (Luke 14:28) It is a Godly thing to plan. Jeremiah writes, "I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord." (Jeremiah 29:11) The psalmist writes, *"The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations."* (Psalm 33:11) God plans and He encourages us to plan, but it comes with a condition: that we plan according to God's will.

In the *Book of James*, he writes, *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'"* (James 4:13-15) James instructs us to plan, but to do so in God's will and to put first things first.

It is God that grants us the gift of life, so first we recognize that. Without life, we could do nothing at all. Then, after getting the basics down we yield to God, *"If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."* Not that we do not plan, we are encouraged to plan... it is Godly to plan... but always with submission to His will. And when we do, something great happens: we become much more willing to follow Christ, whatever and wherever that means. This past Christmas season, we looked at how Mary made plans to marry Joseph and have a normal life, until Gabriel showed up. Gabriel told Mary her plans would have to change to accommodate God's will and she responded by saying, *"Let it be to me according to your word."* (Luke 1:38)

It is exciting to look forward to events and activities we plan, and we should plan for the future. But when you do, let me encourage you to keep God's will in mind and be ready for whatever He has planned for your life. I hope you have a great month, stay warm and God bless!

Collin Monger

Position Announcement

Shepherd of the Hills Church seeks a person to serve as our newly created **part-time Director of Marketing**. The Director of Marketing will work with the Senior Pastor to carry out the marketing plan of the church.

The ideal candidate will:

- Be an evangelical Christian living out their faith
- Have a bachelor's degree in business, advertising, marketing, or other appropriate discipline (or, in lieu of a degree, significant documented experience in these areas)
- Have experience with graphic design / logo design
- Have some sales/marketing experience
- Have a thorough knowledge of the community around us

Continued . . .

Position Announcement continued ...

- Be able to receive criticism and learn from both success and failure
- Be able to work independently and in a team/office environment
- Be able to meet deadlines consistently

The Director of Marketing will:

- Become a member of our church within 6 months of hire
- Work between 8 and 10 hours per week – a mix of home-based and office-based work will be developed
- Be provided a space within our church offices to operate
- Maintain and keep our website content fresh and updated (pictures, literature, etc.)
- Maintain our social media presence
- Develop and stock literature for church ministries, events, teaching series, etc.
- Report directly to the Senior Pastor

Please note this is not a comprehensive position description. A complete outline of the position will be provided at a later date in the hiring process.

What to do if you are interested:

- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance
- If you feel called to this ministry, send an email with resume and cover letter to admin@shepherdofthehillschurch.org
- **DO NOT CALL THE CHURCH** – applicants that do will be removed from consideration. We will contact applicants as needed.

**Shepherd of the Hills Church reserves the right to hire only those who are in agreement and compliance with our Statement of Faith.*

Missions



*The Grants - Jeff,
Karen, Arthur and
Katherine*



The Mission Commitment Project for January is Jeff and Karen Grant of Cru. The Grants now live in Florida where they work at Cru Headquarters in Orlando. Jeff serves on the national team as the Church Partnership Specialist for campuses in the US as part of Cru's Student LINC Ministry. LINC is focused on launching new ministries on campuses all over the United States, in areas where CRU is not currently active.

"Ministry for me," Jeff writes, "has been living in a few different worlds; coaching students and volunteers around the US to run campus ministry, trying to shape the culture of Cru to serve together with the church more, and getting on campus to teach students and volunteers how to live out the gospel and share their faith."

There are many opportunities for Karen to be involved, using her gifts for evangelism and creativity, by befriending those she comes in contact with throughout the week.

The Vision Project for January is storm relief in Haiti, with the agency to be decided at a future date.

The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.



Coming Events

Feb. 5 – Bloodmobile

Feb. 12 – Scout Sunday

Feb. 24 – Scout Charter
Banquet



**Youth
Club**

Wednesdays

January 11 – April 12, 6:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Martin Luther King Service

January 16, 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Boyertown Area
Ministerial Association

Location: New Hanover United
Methodist Church, Gilbertsville



Bits and Pieces

Prayers of Sympathy are extended to:

- Dennis Houck and family on the death of his mother, Ruba Houck, on November 23;

- Russell and Grace Moser, Darryl Moser, and the entire family on the death of Gene Moser on December 14;

- Debbie Durco and family on the death of her husband, Robert, on December 21;

- Elaine Musser and family on the death of her husband, Wallace, on December 22;

- the Heilemann family on the death of Florine Heilemann on December 23.

Our November Food Drives were successful in helping replenish local food pantries. The Scouts collected 3825 items in their November food drive for Boyertown Area Multi Service. The Salvation Army food boxes were generously filled also, although items were not counted. Thank you to all who contributed.

The annual March for Life in Washington D.C. will be held on Friday, January 27. Friends for Life is sponsoring a bus, leaving Shepherd at 6:00 a.m. with an estimated return of 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per adult.

2016 Statements of Giving will be mailed to those who have contributed \$100 or more in 2016. Those who have contributed less than \$100 may obtain a statement by request.

The Baby Bottle Blast raised \$935.27 which was donated to Genesis Crisis Pregnancy Center of Pottstown.

2017 sponsorship Charts are posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Be sure to visit this spot soon and sign up to sponsor bulletins or altar flowers on the special dates in your life. Altar flowers are \$25 per vase; bulletins are \$20.

The 2016 Annual Report is being compiled. Members will receive a copy in the mail along with a notice of the congregational meeting for approval of the report.

Winter weather cancellations will be announced on WBYN (FM 107.5) and Channel 69 (WFMZ). Please check these resources if the weather is questionable. Note: Channel 69 will have delay or closing information on their web site (www.wfmz.com) at all times, but church information will be on television only when severe conditions occur on a Sunday morning. As a general rule during the week we follow the closures of the Boyertown Schools. If they are closed or have early dismissal, we cancel also.

Special note: When you go to WFMZ.com for Shepherd's snow closing information, click on the Weather tab, select School & Business closing, then select Church, Worship & Library closing. Then you must scroll down – you cannot use the alphabetical index at the top (it will flip you back to "schools"). All the libraries are listed first, followed by the churches.

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m.

Traditional Service

10:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service

January 8

Sanctity of Life Sunday



Pastoral Staff

Dr. Collin Monger
Senior Pastor

Derrick Whitmore, John Brown
Associate Pastors

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
(610) 754-6121 (fax)
Admin@shepherdofthehillchurch.org
www.shepherdofthehillchurch.org

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