

The Air Hill Breezes

2018

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At the end of June, my family moved into the parsonage, and at the beginning of July, I commenced my journey of ministry at Air Hill BIC Church. A huge learning curve exists in many different areas of life.

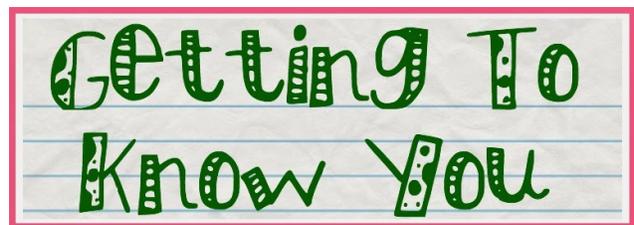
On the day we moved in, Jeff W. took me on a tour of the house. He showed me the tanks that treat the water and make it usable, including the reverse osmosis system. He pointed out the pipe with its gauge that handles the radon in the ground. He talked about the septic system in which everything flowed. He discussed the furnace and the wood stove, not to mention the two different thermostats, one for heat and one for the central air. He also revealed to me the fans in the roof. I have so much to get to know; this is nothing like having city water and being hooked to the sewer system.

I am also getting to know how the congregation functions. I now have this 11" X 17" flow chart sitting on my office counter, not to mention a job description book beside it. I've read a few of the written policies; there aren't too many. I have to complete the work needed for the child protection policy. I am learning who does what, and how does it get done, and by when does it get done – ideally.

I am also getting to know the building. Just this week I discovered unknown stairwells leading into the depths of hidden rooms. Are they the Air Hill catacombs? What a labyrinth! I have not yet explored the attic. What will I find? I still have much to learn.

More importantly, I am getting to know the Air Hill family. I am beginning to put names and faces together. I am beginning to know who goes with who. No, I have not even begun to grasp who is related to whom. I am not Julie Andrews from the King and I, but I concur with her sentiment from the song "Getting To Know You":

Getting to know you
Getting to know all about you
Getting to like you
Getting to hope you like me
Getting to know you
Putting it my way
But nicely
You are precisely
My cup of tea



Admittedly, you might not be tea drinkers, but you know what I mean.

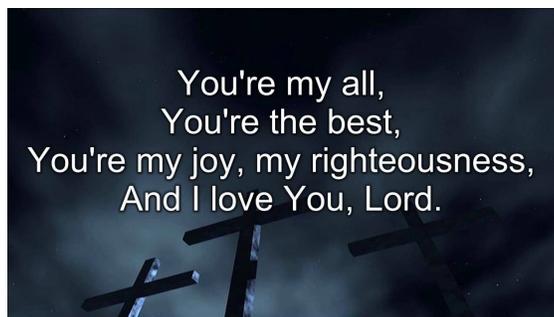
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However, there is one person I need to know more than anyone else in order for my time at Air Hill to succeed, our wonderful triune God. The apostle Paul had an insatiable desire to know God. He wrote, “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death” (Phil. 2:10-11). He considered everything a loss in life, even his great resume, compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ our Lord. Paul invited the church of Philippi to hunger and thirst for Jesus; I invite us to do the same. As we crave for Jesus, then we will know him more. The more we know him, the more we obey him. The more we obey him, the more we will see him at work within the life of Air Hill. The more we see him at work, the more we will worship and adore him. The more we adore him, the more we will want to know him. This will snowball into the depths of eternal life with Jesus (John 17:3).

In the words of Robin Mark’s song “All I Once Held Dear”: “Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you, there is no greater thing. You're my all, you're my best, you're my joy, my righteousness, and I love you, Lord.”

Yes, there is so much to know.



(Submitted by Pastor John Melhorn)

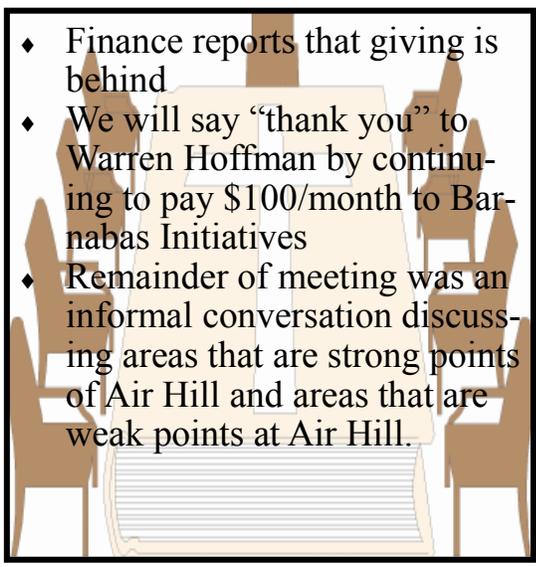
A Note from the Treasurer

I would like to thank the congregation for their giving. We raised \$7,407 for the parsonage fund to do the needed repairs and upgrades.

Our general fund is behind from where we need to be, but I expect that difference to be a lot closer by the end of the third quarter.

At the end of the third quarter is when the finance committee will decide if our budget goals need readjusted and where to set them for 2019.

Church Board Highlights

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- ◆ Finance reports that giving is behind
 - ◆ We will say “thank you” to Warren Hoffman by continuing to pay \$100/month to Barnabas Initiatives
 - ◆ Remainder of meeting was an informal conversation discussing areas that are strong points of Air Hill and areas that are weak points at Air Hill.

General Assembly Report

Conference Report

July 13- 16, 2018

Palmer Hall in the High Center, Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Thank you for sending Charles and I to the General Assembly of the Brethren in Christ US 2018.

The General Assembly in the past was called General Conference. Now General Conference US applies to the United States Regional Conferences. For over 100 years Canada and US were one General Conference. Recently they have been separated because of laws and finances, so General Assembly refers to the business and inspirational meeting of the delegates from the six Regional Conferences of the Brethren in Christ Conference US. Each of the Regional Conferences has a representative on the General Conference Board. Donald Shenk completed his term as representative for Allegheny Conference and Sherri Flohr from the Five Forks Church is his successor. Rachel Diaz, a bilingual attorney from Florida, and Emerson Leshner, CEO of Lifeways/Messiah Village for 18 years, chaired the business sessions.

The Theme of the General Assembly was: To Know, Love & Follow Jesus. The first session began Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock and the last session concluded Monday afternoon with communion led by Bishop Perry Engle. Dave Hershberger arranged and led the worship teams. Frances Drost played the piano for the evening sessions.

Each evening session the message highlighted a phrase of the theme. Friday evening, Former Bishop Danisa Ndlovu from Africa delivered the message "To Know Jesus" He said, "Do we Google Jesus, or try to get to know him through Facebook?" If we really know Jesus it will change our life. Saturday evening National Director Alan Robinson spoke on: "To Love Jesus". To love Jesus we must love our brother otherwise Jesus said we are a liar. Sunday evening Scott McKnight spoke on: "To Follow Jesus". Jesus said, "Take up your cross and follow me." To follow Jesus is to walk to the cross. The cross of our own will submitted to his righteous will.

Testimonials called "God at work" portrayed God's work among us. The Assembly sessions were live streamed but went off line, when our missionary from a country that is 95% Muslim, told of the training she and her husband are doing to raise up Christian leaders. Christian families often do not get an education since they work in the brick kilns from childhood to death to help support their families. Pastors are trained to hold school in the churches to educate the children so they can get jobs that provide for their families.

The business of Assembly is to approve minutes, receive reports, to vote on recommendations and debate issues just like we do at our January Council. In our Council this year we voted to repeal the Constitution. Two thirds of the churches of General Conference US needed to vote in favor for it to be repealed. Seventy-five percent of the churches agreed to the repeal, so with the vote at the Assembly, it has now been repealed. It is replaced by the By-laws and Manual of Doctrine and Government. In the past faith and practice terms were mingled with legal terms.

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A recommendation was brought to insert a sentence in the Articles of Faith and Practice to state: Our forefathers stood in the stream of historic Christianity mediated through the Protestant Reformation especially the Radical Reformation. It was approved and will come to General Assembly 2020 for final approval.

The Church Pension Fund was underfunded so in 2016 a campaign: Honor the Past: Build for the Future began to raise the necessary funding. A donor offered matching funds and by the time the Assembly met, the Pension Fund was fully funded. Mitch Martin from the BIC Pension Fund was moved to tears in gratitude as he reported the funding. An offering taken two evenings amounted to nearly \$11,000 to fund future initiatives that will also be matched.

The only ballot vote was on the recommendation to elect Alan Robinson to serve a second term as National Director. It passed easily.

Names of ministers and Missionaries who passed away during the biennium were read; some may be familiar to you: Rachel Kibler, Eva Mae Melhorn Brubaker, George Bundy, David Climenhaga, Gene Wingert and a number of others.

Bishops of the regional Conferences:

Allegheny	- Rob Patterson
Atlantic	- Bryon Hoke
Great Lakes	- Lynn Thrush
Midwest and Pacific	- Perry Engle
Southeast	- Aner Morejon
Susquehanna	- Robert Beaty

Bible Quizzing has been an exciting part of Conference/Assembly for many years. The final quiz of the Youth Bible Quizzing ended the Assembly in Palmer Hall on Monday evening. They met in other areas throughout the General Assembly sessions. Nine Church teams quizzed using double elimination in which a team had to lose twice to be eliminated. Monday night Dillsburg Church with no losses faced Nappanee, IN. Nappanee had one loss from losing to Dillsburg earlier in the weekend. Nappanee won the first quiz, so each came to the final quiz with one loss. Dillsburg lost again in the second quiz. Messiah College gives a \$1,000 certificate to each member of the winning team, to the highest quizzier of each team and to a few other categories. These are redeemable when the person enrolls as a student at Messiah. One quizzier received three certificates! Several were young enough they will wait years to redeem theirs, while one young man is a student already.

This year for the first time six teams of adults: former quizzers, quiz team leaders or other people who joined a team, and quizzed on Sunday afternoon at the Grantham Church. Julie Heisey, daughter of Ray and Mim Heisey of Roxbury, PA, who had been in Rwanda for the past year, is home and was on the winning team.

An Agenda with fuller reports, other reports and financial reports is available in the Narthex.

Going to the Assembly is like going to a family reunion. You see some old friends and make new ones. Sitting at a table in the dining room, we were joined by a couple we did not recognize. It was Kim Bert Law and her husband from CA. She is the daughter of Dorothy and the late Leroy Bert. We had not seen her for years.

We enjoyed the inspiration, challenge and fellowship of the Brethren in Christ US. Thank you.

Charles and Ruth Lehman

How would you describe the trip to KY with the youth group?

In June, 12 of us spent a week serving with Big Creek missions in Leslie County, KY. It was a great week of serving together and taking the love of Christ to people who are working to survive in one of the poorest areas in America. I was very encouraged to see God working in the lives of our students. Read more from them about what they experienced

-Jason Wenger

During my week at Big Creek I feel like I grew closer to God and the people around me. Before the trip I felt like I was becoming lukewarm with God and I was hoping that it would help bring me out of that. I think that having a worship time every morning and evening helped me remember that God is the center of it all. It has brought me closer to God and encouraged me to keep growing. Another thing that I took from the week would be the feeling of knowing that I served others and let go of some of my selfishness. Though I am not in Kentucky anymore, I have not stopped trying to help and serve others around me. I know that I was blessed by many people and I hope that I did the same for someone else.

- Hannah Pheasant

This is my third time going to Big Creek Missions and I've loved every single time. I was in the children's group and it was a lot of fun. We had a VBS with the kids and I helped serve breakfast and lunch. The group I was with just made everything so much fun and alive, and the people there were amazing. Every time I go on a mission's trip it really makes me think of what I have, and to be grateful for everything that I do have. At the Big Creek site all the staffers were just so amazing and fun, and through each I could see so much compassion for what they were doing. I hope to keep up with my mission which is coming home and keep serving others.

- Hanna Stoltzfus

Prepared: I used the word prepared to describe how I felt coming out of our trip. I say this because I feel that Kevin, our speaker at Kentucky, gave us a lot of great material to work on in our Christian lives. The book of Colossians spoke to me and made me thirsty for the word even more. As a person with a scientific mindset that enjoys an answer to every question, Kevin and his teaching of Colossians helped me better understand what God wants for me. I feel prepared to strengthen my relationship with God in my life as not only my Father in heaven, but also my best friend in whom I can rely on in every moment of my life.

- Tara Cutshaw

I would describe this trip as "smooth". Why do I use smooth? Let me tell you. The whole trip was well organized and planned. This was my first mission trip and I will definitely look into going on the next one.

- Jacob Cutshaw

The trip to Kentucky taught me a lot. It took me out of my comfort zone in many ways, but it taught me to be flexible. Even though I was in the children's ministry, I learned that I can still serve no matter where I am placed. I enjoyed meeting new people and growing closer to the other members of our group. I hope I can use what I learned on this trip to continue working in God's name and follow the path He has made for me.

- Jacki Custer

The week I went to Kentucky I felt very inspired by the people. During that week my group and I went on several home visits. We visited an elderly couple and the wife was saying how her son has cancer that he could possibly die from. She said, "We are not supposed to outlive our children". That really touched me because she almost lost her husband to cancer and she does not want her son to go. I felt inspired by this couple because they fought through the difficulties having faith and trust in God all the time. Another lady we visited has went through a lot too. She lost her husband several years ago and is struggling with many health problems. Through her life there has been many "bumps" and how she came back to Jesus every time showed me that God really loves her and she really loves God. The inspiration she gave me was that no matter how bad your life is God can still work through you. The other days in the week I saw many poor people and I have hope that in some way God will help them.

- Kelsie Hawbaker

Mission's trips are a life changing experience, regardless of your background. My home life is hard. God was really, really calling me to go to Kentucky. I went to Big Creek a couple weeks ago and it was soooo amazing! Driving there took a while, but once we got there everyone was super nice. I learned a lot about being patient that week and also you shouldn't yell at kids just because they're doing something they aren't supposed to LOL. You have to be super calm. My favorite part was listening to Kevin preach, everything he was saying was very eye opening.

- Kimarha Jones

"River Like" I can summarize my ministry week with "River-Like" because it was very much going with the flow. I spent the week at a Kids Day Camp. The day camp was purposed with Bible teaching and engaging activities, as well as to provide 2 meals for the kids (breakfast & lunch). Jesus was shared through our smiles, showing compassion, having devotions together and through having a fun time together. If you were to have stopped by during camp you would have seen the Big Creek volunteers swinging, playing card games, playing basketball, making a craft and so much more with the kids. It may not have looked like a "structured" outreach, but it was a Jesus-centered time of being relational. We must be relational with our Creator and then also with the created.

- Danae Wenger

This mission trip to Kentucky was nothing short of genuine and rejuvenating. Seeing each of the students at a different point in life, but all coming together to serve such an awesome God is so empowering. The students that came on this trip left whatever was happening in life behind them and took on the week with open eyes and an open heart. I went on this trip with the intentions of just being a leader, but I learned far more than I ever could have imagined. Being away from my daily schedule and in a place that allowed me to make my main focus on serving God and the people of Kentucky made all the difference. I learned that sometimes we must step back and away from daily life and reevaluate our walk with God. He is always there, you just have to take the time and effort to see Him.

- Bre Grove

For the trip to Big Creek Missions the word "moving" comes to mind for me. We physically moved, as a few students and I worked construction putting on two roofs. Spiritually moving as we had lessons through the week on Colossians and how we are rescued by Jesus Christ. I was moved by seeing some of our youth take a step out of their comfort zone giving some real talk on where they are in life and how their relationship is with God. I was proud of a large part of our group and how they put God at the center of this missions trip.

- Kyle Grove



AUGUST 2018

AIR HILL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

"To grow a healthy, loving, Christ centered church family that has a passion for reaching the community and the world for Christ"

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3 Roxbury Camp	4
5 9 S.S. 10 Worship	6	7 6 Prop. Mgt. 6:30 Men's Basketball	8	9	10	11 Roxbury Camp Jason on Vacation
12 9 S.S. 10 Worship Roxbury Camp	13 7 Church Board	14 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Men's Basketball	15	16	17 8 pm Movie Night	18 Congratulations Shawn & Kayla
19 9 S.S. 10 Worship Gym in Use	20	21 6:30 Men's Basketball	22	23	24	25
26 9 S.S. 10 Worship 6:30 Praise/Prayer	27	28 6:30 Men's Basketball	29	30	31	