

HOW ABOUT THOSE “SMALL” USHERS? Using Little Kids to Do Big Jobs in Church

“The ushers, tall and small, will now collect our tithes and offerings.” That’s what Worship Leader **Jon Haines** says each Sunday as we begin our weekly offering in worship. Two adults and two children then proceed to receive the offering, working the pews, row by row.

Using children as ushers is not about a manpower shortage. It is about giving our children an active role in the life and work of our church. “The kids are cute,” said Pastor **Dan Morrison**, “but there is a serious reason for putting them to work.”

Children’s Ministry Director **Laura Haines** came up with the idea.

“Sometimes we say to kids, “You’re just kids! You can’t serve! You need to sit there and listen and learn from other people,” Haines observed. “But all of us like to be where we are needed and feel included. The children need to feel needed and included, too. One way to do that is to let them be ushers.”

Thus far, child ushers have included: **Annie Laurie Bramer; Isaac and Oliver Brobst; Naomi Crawford; A.J., Gracie, and Jack Gerardi; Karineh and Dafne Goretti; Annaliese, Briella, and Jaiden Haines; Liam and Lucas Herwig; Mia Morrison; and Maelina, Micah, and Myra Waring.**

But ushering is just the beginning. Children also monitor the soundboard, run the slideshow, and operate the internet broadcast. **Jon Haines**, who oversees these ministries, set a rule that a kid has to be at least 10 years old before they can operate one of the computerized functions. And thus far helping with the technology have been **Isaac**



*Children’s Ministry Director **Laura Haines**, right, gets the ushers ready in the back of the sanctuary. From left to right: **William Waring, Annaliese Haines, Steve Quinter, Annie Laurie Bramer, and Laura Haines.***

Brobst, A. J. Gerardi, Annaliese Haines, Liam and Lucas Herwig.

“If we teach our kids the servanthood lifestyle early on, they will continue to look for places to serve in the future,” said **Laura Haines**. “Our kids are cared for most of the time, and so they can’t see the opportunities to serve others. Letting them serve, rather than being served all the time, helps them see where they can help.”

Pastor **Morrison** noted, “An added benefit of having ushers “tall and small” is that our children get to know Head Usher **Bert Holmes!**”

NEW SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE ON TAP

Plan Will Bring Two Services Closer

HVPC again will have two worship services on Sunday mornings. But this time it won't be one contemporary and one traditional. It will be one Portuguese and one English. The new schedule will begin on September 10, 2023, the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Last summer, HVPC had four services: two English services in the morning, plus one English and one Portuguese service in the evening. But by the beginning of the 2022 Advent season, we had two services – English in the morning and Portuguese in the evening.

In June, after a couple months of study by an ad hoc committee chaired by Elder **Debra Jack**, Session decided to put both services in the morning.

Portuguese worship will begin at 9:00 a.m. and English worship at 11:15 a.m. Between the two services, Sunday school classes for all ages in both English and Portuguese will happen.

The Session had three goals in making this change. First, this schedule will help grow our church as people prefer morning worship. Second, with both services in the morning the whole HVPC congregation will see each other more and can collaborate on Sunday school. And third, the new schedule will allow **Pastor Sousa** and **Pastor Morrison** to launch evening services in Collegetville, where they believe the new Fellowship Presbyterian Church will be planted.

"I was so happy to see the unity," **Deb Jack** said of the ad hoc committee formed to figure out the Sunday morning schedule. That team consisted of **Ariadne Azevedo, Liliana Coelho, Jordan Goretti, Laura Haines, Bert Holmes, Dan Morrison, Jay and Pat Sarajian, Matt Schaper, and Bruno Sousa**. "People were willing to set aside their own desires and work for the good of all."

The change, of course, won't be easy and there is plenty of work that must be done to get ready, particularly by staff responsible for Sunday school



*Beginning the first Sunday after Labor Day, **Pastor Sousa** will preach in Portuguese at a service beginning at 9:00 a.m., and **Pastor Morrison** (pictured here) will preach in English at service starting at 11:15 a.m. Between the two services will be Sunday school for everyone.*

and music.

While there are many reasons for the change, **Pastor Sousa** pointed to the cultural pluses. "Our Brazilian adults will develop their English and be united with a real American culture in church. And our children will sharpen their Biblical knowledge in English," he said. "But it will be a noisy church," Sousa observed with a laugh. "We Brazilians are much more informal in everything, and now we will step into the well-organized and quiet American congregation."

"It will be busy, for sure," said **Pastor Morrison**, "but it will be a lot of fun!"

Church News



Rebekah Bramer, left, and Mofe Oduneye plant new marigolds in the garden near the church entrance.

/ HVPC Workday / Bathrooms were deep cleaned, grass seed was sown, mulch was spread, windows were painted, flowers were planted, and weeds were pulled on May 6 in what may have been HVPC's biggest workday ever.

While HVPC folks were busy cleaning, neighbors drove up to a special truck in the parking lot to have private papers safely shredded. As people came to the drive-thru event, **Noel Wolfe** and **Jordan Goretti** handed out bottles of water and refrigerator magnet clips loaded HVPC literature.

Betty Ann Jones of the Outreach Committee explained, "This year, we expanded the workday to include community outreach with the shred event. It was an experiment," she said. "And the best part was the boys [**Noel Wolfe** and **Jordan Goretti**] got to witness to the truck driver!" Deacons **Ginny Aikens**, **Anne Caulfield**, **Shari Hofstetter**, and Elder **Cynthia Cornish** made sure everyone had plenty to eat and drink. Pitching in were: **Ginny Aikens**, **Jucimeire Alves**, **Ariadne Azevedo**, **Rebekah Bramer**, **Anne Caulfield**, **Marcus Chagas**, **Susan Clark**, **Cynthia Cornish**, **Dwayne Cornish**, **Susi Cottle**, **Corey D'Angelo**, **Cassandra Davis**, **Kenny Davis**, **Iran de Souza**, **Simila Duarte**, **Cecilia Esteves**, **Cesar Esteves**, **Gisele Esteves**, **Chelsea**

Foster, **Jordan Goretti**, **Annaliese Haines**, **Briella Haines**, **Jaiden Haines**, **Laura Haines**, **Lucas Herwig**, **Deb Hoffman**, **Shari Hofstetter**, **Dan Morrison**, **Mofe Oduneye**, **Steve Quinter**, **Elizabeth Rozarto**, **Jay Sarajian**, **Barbara Scaffidi**, **Bruno Sousa**, **Pamella Sousa**, **William Waring**, **Noel Wolfe**, and **Washington Xavier**.

/ Vacation Bible School / More than 40 kids came out for songs, Bible stories, games, crafts, and snacks at the HVPC VBS, June 19 to 22. **Laura Haines** headed up a group of volunteers including **Joan Clover**, **Victoria Goncalves**, **Crystal Goretti**, **Jordan Goretti**, **Bob Herwig**, **Liam Herwig**, **Lucas Herwig**, **Deb Jack**, **Millie Jasinsky**, **Rayssa Lamarche**, **Dan Morrison**, **Filipe Santos**, **Daniel Schaper**, **Alexandra Silveira**, **Bruno Sousa**, **Nicolle Sousa**, **Pamella Sousa**, **Sonia Sousa**, **Jenna Stokes**, **Maureen Sweeney**, **Elaine Ticker**, **Cheryl Waring**, **Micah Waring**, and **Becca Jo Yourko**.

Becca Jo Yourko led and directed funny, high-energy skits, singing, and puppet shows.

Key concept in this year's VBS: Christophany. That's a visible manifestation of Christ before his human incarnation. In other words, Christ in the Old Testament. Wow!



Julia Santos and Liam Doherty made fun crafts out of tin cans.

MEN AND WOMEN GATHER AT HVPC

Tea, Breakfast, and Stogies Focus Fellowships



Minister of Celebrations **Charlene Crawford**, standing, delivers an encouraging word at the May 13 Women's Tea in the HVPC lounge.

While we meet for worship each Sunday, it is important to gather at other times for fellowship and fun. Recently, our women met for an elegant tea. The men, after a long hiatus, enjoyed a hearty breakfast. And they continue to gather every other Monday for Bible, prayer, and cigars in the Ungerman Barn.

/ Women's Tea Back on Tap /

One of the victims of the COVID panic were the periodic Women's Teas organized by **Charlene Crawford**. But on May 13, the much-loved event came back with fresh life the HVPC Lounge. While the men were content to eat on unadorned folding tables, the women dressed up their event with tablecloths and color-coordinated tablewear.

Twenty-five women and girls, including many from outside our congregation, gathered for the pleasant event.

For the women, the teas are all about joining together. "We have these teas to connect all the

women of the church," said **Charlene Crawford**, Minister of Celebrations. "With woman of all ages, we build a community of love and support for each other."

Charlene led an encouraging devotional based on Psalm 37:25 which reads, "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread."

Three grandmother-mother-daughter sets graced the tea. **Cynthia Cornish** and her daughters **Charlene Crawford** and **Cassandra Davis** were there with Cynthia's granddaughters **Ana** and **Naomi Crawford**. **Mio DeJesus** attended with her mother **Miriam DeJesus** and daughter **Emma James**. **Cheryl**

Waring attended with her daughter **Gloria Waring** and twin granddaughters **Maelina** and **Myra Waring**. **Cheryl** also brought her neighbor and friend **Marion Hoehm**. **Elaine Ticker** and **Carolyn Ticker** formed a mother-daughter duo.

Long-time members **Joyce Fleming** and **Pat Sarajian** recalled the venerable tradition of teas at HVPC. Also enjoying the fellowship were **Crystal Goretti**, **Deb Hoffman**, **Jane Keater**, **Susan Kurek**, **Elizabeth Rozarto**, **Christie Bruce**, and **Susan Clark**.

Upcoming Women's Ministry events included "Relax Before You Shop" on Saturday, September 2 and "Time for Tea" on Saturday, September 30. See **Charlene Crawford** for details.

/ Men's Prayer Breakfast Returns /

After a hiatus of a few of months, the Men's Prayer Breakfast came roaring back in March with a full breakfast, special guest speaker, and a large crowd. COVID put the kibosh on eating together, so for a long while the Prayer Breakfast was just a

biweekly bible study – no bacon and eggs allowed. Without food, interest waned. When attendance began to slip at the end of 2022, men’s ministry guru **Jordan Goretti** decided to do a reset of the breakfast and come back on a quarterly basis with a more robust program. The strategy seems to have worked.

On March 4, a total of 23 men, from age 8 to more than 80, gathered in the Boyer Fellowship Hall for a proper breakfast, fellowship, and a fascinating presentation by **Stan Huberfeld**, a converted Jew active in Christian evangelism. Bar mitzvahed in 1959 and born again in 1984, **Stan Huberfeld** is a friend of **Lee** and **Elaine Ticker**. He is a veteran and retired businessman and is engaged fulltime ministry now with his wife Deborah.

In the kitchen doing bang-up work – scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, toast – were **Bob Herwig** and **Steve Quinter**.

Others present were **Walt Jasinsky**, Chaplain **Alex Aimette**, **Lee Ticker**, **John Portis**, and **Bob Romanelli**. HVPC Elders at the event were **Jay Sarajian**, **Jordan Goretti**, **Jon Haines**, **Noel Wolfe**, **Rich Good**, and **George Hindley**. Father-and-son combos included Pastor **Dan Morrison** and his son-



The Boyer Fellowship Hall, viewed here from inside the kitchen, was the scene of the rejuvenated Men’s Prayer Breakfast on March 4.

in-law **Josh Bruce**, **Rich James** and his son **Harrison James** and father-in-law **Nerino Jakovcic**, **Asaph Sousa** and his father Pastor **Bruno Sousa**, and Dr. **Richard Waring** and his grandson **William Waring**.

The HVPC Men’s Ministry is under the direction of **Jordan Goretti** and will continue to organize quarterly Men’s Prayer Breakfasts on the first Saturday of March, June, September, and December.

But perhaps better known is the cigar-friendly bible study and prayer group that has met every other Monday evening for many years. With its tongue-in-cheek name, the Presbyterian Stogie Society meets in the Ungerman Barn from 7 to 9 on the appointed evenings.

The bible study, which is always in depth, is lead by **Jordan Goretti**. A half-hour is always reserved for serious prayer. The group operates under two rules: 1) Don’t give any advice unless it is asked for, and 2) What is said at Stogie Society stays at Stogie Society.

While the group has both smokers and non-smokers, it is debating whether or not to give up the cigars to see if that will get more guys out.



The rough and rustic Ungerman Barn is the meeting space of the Presbyterian Stogie Society year-round.



Congregational Notes

Ginny Aiken was surprised on April 23 by family and friends gathered in the Boyer Fellowship Hall in honor of her 80th birthday. Her friend and fellow deacon **Anne Caulfield** organized the celebration.

Angela and Ghislain Bredji, and their son **Floyd**, recently moved to California. Angela has taken an assignment with the US Army. Her new address is: 9566 Karma Drive, San Diego, CA 92126.

Evelyn Brown recently moved to be nearer her daughter **Jan Pinkney**. Evelyn, who turns 104 this month, joined HVPC with her husband Kenneth in 1960. She was ordained as a deacon in 1966 and as an elder in 1988. Born in Philadelphia, Evelyn graduated from Bucknell University. She and her husband raised three daughters in the Greenridge section of Huntingdon Valley. For many years she worked as a librarian in the Lower Moreland High School. She also established a library at HVPC. About 20 years ago, she moved to a cottage at what is now called



Pat Sarajian, left, **Jan Pinkney**, and **Evelyn Brown** meet at Wesley Enhanced Living in Hatboro. **Evelyn** has moved to Wellsboro, Penna.

Wesley Enhanced Living in Hatboro. Old timers know the place as the Orangeman's Home or Maple Village. She was an active member of the Miriam Circle for many years. Evelyn's new address is: Country Terrace, Room 107, 1919 Shumway Hill Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901.

Sebastian Adamson Bruce was dedicated in worship on Easter, April 9. His parents are Josh and Rosie Bruce.

Ana Crawford received her bachelor's degree from Temple University in May in Theatre Arts. She works parttime as lighting designer at the 20,000+ member Bethany Baptist Church in Lindenwold, New Jersey. She also works parttime as an administrative assistant for her mother **Charlene Crawford** and aunt **Cassie Davis**.

BJ Crawford works for the Martin Luther School as a teaching assistant.

Daniel and Divina da Silva were married at HVPC on March 25. Pastor **Bruno Sousa** officiated. The bride and groom both had the surname "da Silva" before they were married, the name being very common in Brazil.

Margie Hindley continues to advance in her scientific career. She recently was named Director of Computer Systems Validation at Taiho Oncology in Princeton, N. J.



Daniel and Divina da Silva celebrate in the Boyer Fellowship Hall following their wedding on March 25.

Congregational Notes

In May, **Jimmy Hindley** finished his bachelor's degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh where he studied international business and supply chain management. He was hired by DePuy Sythes, a Johnson & Johnson's subsidiary making artificial knees and hips and will work near Pittsburgh.

Harrison James, who plays drums with our band, was one of 10 to graduate the eighth at Valley Christian School on June 1. He will go to high school at Calvary Christian Academy.

Anna Lipinski celebrated her first birthday with a backyard party on July 1.

Hektor Macedo, who teaches violin and piano, had a large student recital in the Boyer Fellowship Hall on May 6. Pastor **Dan Morrison** and several HVPC members study with Hektor.

Dan Morrison received his Doctor of Ministry degree at Reformed Theological Seminary in May 2023. Attending the graduation ceremony in Orlando, Florida, were his wife **Eva**, daughter and



The Hindley family celebrate Jimmy's graduation from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

son-in-law **Rosie** and **Josh Bruce** and their baby **Sebastian**, son and daughter-in-law **Calvin** and **Cheryl Morrison**, and daughter **Mia**. **George** and **Margie Hindley** and their sons **Jimmy** and **Tim** also attended the celebration in Florida.

Calvin Morrison and his wife **Cheryl Morrison** live in Bethlehem, Pa. They attend Lehigh Valley Presbyterian Church in Allentown and are expecting a baby in December.

Cheryl Waring was received as a member in worship on March 26. Her grandson **William Waring** is working for Saladworks in Huntingdon Valley this summer.

Noel Wolfe and **Jucimeire Alves** were married at HVPC on June 11. The wedding ceremony was part of our regular Sunday morning worship.



Noel Wolfe and Jucimeire Alves were married at HVPC on July 11 during the Sunday morning service.

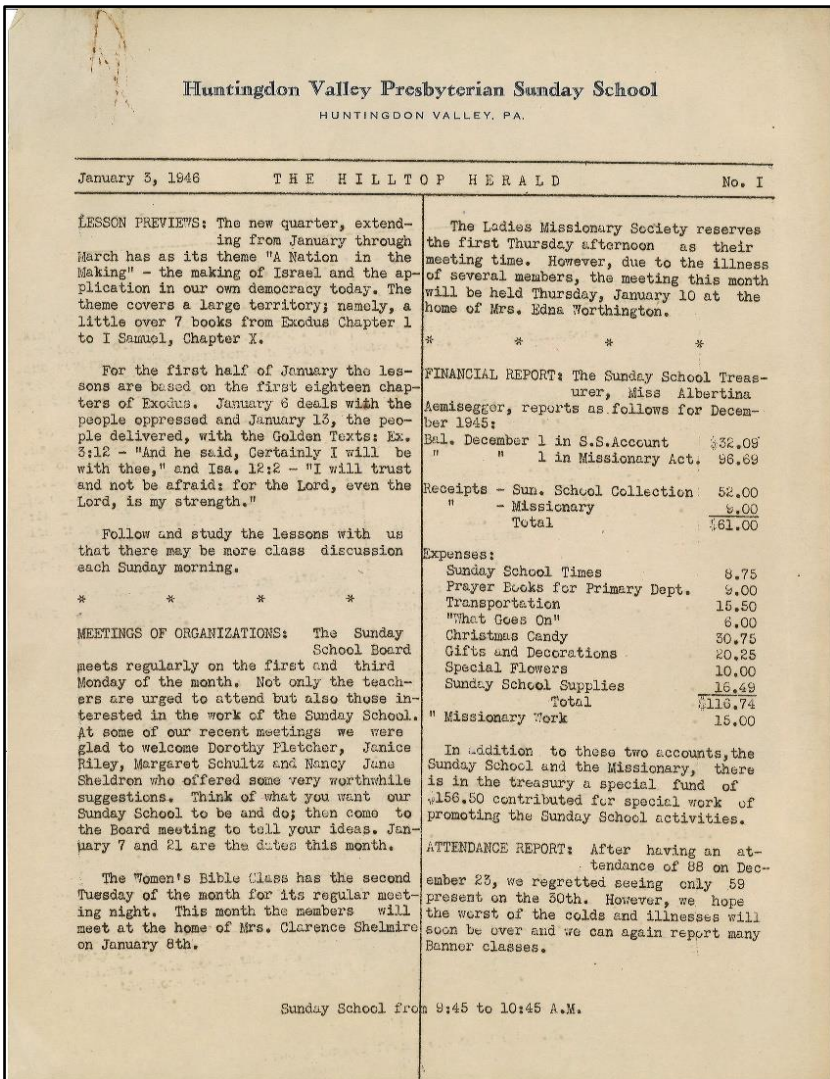
In Memoriam

Christine Elizabeth Buoni – January 27, 2023

Elizabeth Guaracao – April 10, 2023

THE HILLTOP HERALD

HVPC's First Newsletter Ran 300 Issues



For February 10, 1946, students were to have read the entire Book of Numbers.

Sunday School was a competitive affair in those days. Honors for perfect attendance – for classes, families, and individuals – were regularly reported. Banners were hung in winning classes and perfect attendance pins awarded to scholars. The pressure to help one's class win was so great that one boy who showed up to church without his Bible raced home to get it, as attendance without a Bible didn't count!

In addition to upcoming reading assignments and statistics on attendance and giving, the newsletter reported bits of personal news, like weddings, birthdays, army enlistments, and visits from out-of-town guests. Oldtimers will recognize many names: **Aemisegger, Anderson, Flack, Ivins, Pletcher, Shelmire, Wunderlich**, and more.

While the newsletter was the official organ of the Sunday School department, it also ran notes about the larger work of the church. We learn about guest missionary speakers, building improvements, and the search for a new pastor.

The last numbered edition of *The Hilltop Herald* was no. 222 in December 1960. By that time, in the pastorate of **Leonard Clayton**, the newsletter had grown to eight pages, with a sermon-like message from the pastor on the cover.

The latest number of *The Hilltop Herald* in our archives is from June 1967, which would have been the 300th edition of the publication started in 1946.

People love to know what is going on! That's why a church newsletter is always appreciated.

The earliest newsletter in the HVPC archives is the inaugural issue of *The Hilltop Herald* which hit the newsstands on January 3, 1946.

This one-page, one-sided sheet was published by the HVPC Sunday School and appeared every two weeks. The newsletter was mimeographed on printed letterhead and mailed to all members.

At the time, Sunday School attendance hovered around 80 students of all ages. All the classes had a coordinated lesson plan and *The Hilltop Herald* announced assigned Bible readings for the coming weeks so students could prepare for their lessons.

Good News!

A publication of Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church

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