

Valley Views



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Pastor Mike Hill

Five Back-to-School Basics

By Marshall Segal

The beginning of August signals the beginning of back-to-school shopping, or at least back-to-school-shopping commercials. You may not know it, but whether you're a freshman or senior, you're going to need more than notebooks, pencils, and a strong book bag.

You need truth. Sure, you're going to school, willingly or unwillingly, to learn, but there are truths you need before the algebra, literature, and biology. While you should develop good study habits for the new semester, here are some real keys to the classroom you probably won't find in your syllabus.

1. Thinking may be the most critical thing you ever do.

You're going to school to learn how to think, not to pass tests. Whatever Christians do with their lives, whether we eat or drink or run a company or teach second grade or develop software or change diapers, we aim to do it to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). If you've tried it, you know it's rarely simple or obvious how that happens. It requires careful thought and discernment.

John Piper writes, "The well-educated person is the person who has the habits of mind and heart to go on learning what he needs to learn to live in a Christ-exalting way for the rest of his life — and that would apply to whatever sphere of life he pursues" (*Think*, 191–192).

If we're going to apply God's word to the world, we need to know our world. Every chapter in a history book, every science experiment in the lab, every interaction between classmates is an opportunity to learn about the world God created — the place he especially put us to see him, enjoy him, and help others do the same.

2. The most important book you'll read this fall is your Bible.

Because of all the assigned pages, you'll be tempted to sideline your Bible reading until the next test has passed, the next paper is done, or the next break is here. Instead, treat your time in the Bible like you treat your meal plan.

Your time soaking in Scripture will be the most fruitful and shaping time of your education. Nothing can replace the wealth you will find there, and nothing will prepare you better for life, family, vocation, or even your next class.

Again, Piper pleads, "Let us labor to memorize the Word of God — for worship and for warfare. If we don't wear it, we can't wield it. If we do not carry it in our heads, we cannot savor it in our hearts or wield it in the Spirit" (*Desiring God*, 154).

3. Someone younger than you needs you.

As a teenager, it took me several years to appreciate the influence I had over those younger than me. Sixth-graders can't wait to be eighth-graders, who can't wait to be freshmen, who can't wait to be juniors, who can't wait to be in college.

So someone younger than you is watching you, and probably wants to be like you. Whether you choose to be or not, you will be a role model. Why not model Christ-like faith, joy, generosity, and service?

If you were under the impression 2 Timothy 2:2 stops with elder-types in the church, remember that Jesus calls *all* his disciples, without distinction, to be making more disciples (Matthew 28:19).

Keep your eyes open for the guy (if you're a guy) or girl (if you're a girl) trying to find someone to look up to, and spend some time and energy to consistently point them even further up to Christ. Think creatively about ways you could invest the gospel and your life into them, and eventually show them how they can do the same for others.

4. Comparison in the classroom can be the birthplace of pride.

God opposes the proud (James 4:6). That's enough to know pride is dangerous, *really* dangerous. No one opposes God and survives, much less wins. Your pride will defile you (Matthew 7:20–23) and keep you out of the kingdom. Your humility, however, testifies to God's forgiveness of your sin and his grace at work in you.

The classroom naturally nurtures a culture of comparison. Pride can certainly begin before our education, but school's grades, awards, and social dynamics seem to breed the wrong kind of competition — a self-seeking kind. And this pride clashes with our Savior's sacrifice like your dad's white socks and his favorite sandals.

Your younger years are fertile ground for big dreams. Piper recently encouraged a group of young ambitious dreamers to distinguish between influence and fame. He said it is a good and honorable thing to want to change the world, but it's wicked to want to be known for it.

Let's try and be quick to celebrate others (Romans 12:10), slow to speak, especially about our own successes, and slow to think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Romans 12:3). Remember you are a sinner bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19–20), and that in all your good papers, projects, and tests, it is God working through you for his glory (Philippians 2:13).

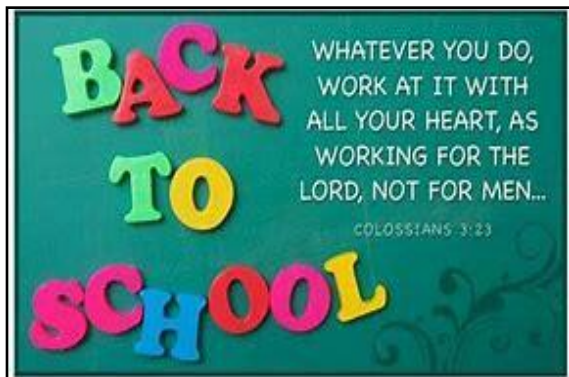

5. Only the gospel saves anyone, even A-students.

Whatever the grades may say, none of us really measures up — no, not one (Romans 3:11–12). Regardless of how hard you work this year, you will fail. You may fail to serve your roommate patiently or steward your time effectively or respect your parents humbly or do your schoolwork faithfully.


Fortunately, every student who trusts in Christ has an advocate before the one with infinitely more power and authority than any teacher, dean, principal, or president (1 John 2:1). God loves you and promises to be with you and help you because his Son died for you, *not* because of how well you do in school or how many friends you have or how happy your parents are with your performance.

You might have a new computer or a new study partner or an improved living situation or some new resolve to do better, but ultimately your only hope this fall or any fall is the gospel. And that is a really, really strong place to stand and study.

So whether you're going to walk, drive, or take the bus for the first day of classes, as you pack up, prepare your heart and mind for the work. By God's merciful, student-loving grace, this year could be a breakthrough in your personal passion for him, your ministry to others on campus, and your readiness for a long life lived with and for Jesus.

We are tentatively planning a Children's Sunday on Sunday, September 29th at both churches. This will be a Sunday to bring our small children to church to celebrate God's gift of life. The service will be geared toward children.



A big Thank You to all that helped teach the classes, prepare food, organize crafts, teach music, decorate the church, set up tear down, organize the carnival, donate items and most of all your support and prayers!! We couldn't have done this without all of you!!! Our hearts are truly grateful and appreciative. Thank you all again so much for making another VBS so special!!

God Bless,
Taryn & Andrea

There will be a blood drive on Tuesday, August 6th from 2-7 in the Fellowship Hall.



Acolyte Schedule:



| | |
|------|----------------------|
| 8/4 | Jackson & Samuel |
| 8/11 | Mallorie & Elizabeth |
| 8/18 | Mitchell & Garrett |
| 8/25 | Elizabeth & Samuel |

Many Thanks

Our special thanks to Pastor Mike for all the visits, communion and prayers given Dick during his long journey to Eternity. At this time we wish to thank Donna and her "crew" who helped with the meal and thanks to those who contributed food. Thanks especially to those who helped "tear down" the Bible School decorations for the funeral. It was awesome. We would also like to thank the groups who sang to Dick as he lay in bed for 2 1/2 years, never complaining. God is Great!! We have many in our church and community that follow God. Thanks to All.

In Christian Love,
The Dick Taylor Family
(by—Eleanor T.)

Community Breakfast is held Wednesday mornings from 7:00 - 9:00 am at the Elimsport Church.



"Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."

~Matthew 18:5



Just a reminder: Everyone is to check the mailbox in the back of the Elimsport church.



Elimsport Volunteers

Please so not leave boxes for apple dumplings at St. John's until after September 9th.

- Items for September's newsletter are due August **20th**.
- Items for the weekly bulletin's need to be to the church office by **Wednesday** morning each week.

(Items received after these dates are not guaranteed to be printed.)

Greeters for August

| | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|
| August 4 | Frank Cleaver |
| August 11 | Bob & Hilda Sampsell |
| August 18 | Joe & Lauren Bryson |
| August 25 | Jennifer Springman & Family |





Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.

501 High Street Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17701 (570) 323-1797

<https://stmwilliamsport.org>

June 11, 2019

Dear 'Project of Hope' Friend,

After the bitter cold winter and wet spring, it's wonderful to welcome the Season of Summer!

It's the time of year for new beginnings. A time that trees are blossoming and flowers are in full bloom.

At Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport, we are also excited to welcome this new "Season of Rebirth."

Let me explain why.

Preliminary work has already begun at the Sojourner's former (attached) parsonage building. The sole purpose of this Project is to offer short-term communal housing for women coming out of a "season of homelessness".

Although some of the renovations are currently underway, there are many other major improvements still to be completed. For example, enlisting an experienced staff person to oversee and supervise this important project. Currently, our 2019 Budget does not include a line item to cover such a salary for this position.

Other vital (and cost-effective) areas in this "Building of Hope" would include (but not be limited to):

- Energy-efficient Windows Installed Approximate Cost: \$ 8,000
- A Comfortable and Updated Kitchen Approximate Cost: \$ 14,000

Through the development of this newly remodeled facility, volunteers will certainly be utilized whenever and wherever needed.

As I mentioned in the opening of this letter, the long winter season is behind us. Vibrant color is all around us!

Our Vision Statement... Sojourner Truth Ministry shall be a loving, spiritual, and inclusive Christian mission.
The Mission and Purpose of Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. Sojourner Truth Ministry loves all people, creates community, builds character, and equips us to be faithful disciples of JESUS CHRIST.

Your special gratitude gift (in the amount of \$20, \$50, \$100, \$1,000 or greater) will help to end the hopelessness and dark days for many women seeking temporary shelter in a safe environment.

Your generous donation will turn nights of hopelessness into days of hope.

Your "Project of Hope" partnership will bring light into the lives of many women who have long lived in darkness and despair.

Blessings,



Pastor Angelique Labadie
-Sojourner Truth Ministries

P.S. Thank you for your continued prayers, your volunteerism and your monetary donations, as our "Project of Hope" becomes a house of dignity and healing for so many women.

May God continue to bless you for your Stewardship and generosity to Sojourner Truth Ministries.

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Kid's Corner



ELIMSPORT VALLEY UNITED METHODIST PARISH

Worship Schedule:

Elimsport UMC

Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:30 am

St. John's UMC

Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Parish Youth Group

Check weekly Bulletin for current schedule and events
(at Elimsport)

Parish Bible Study

Varies according to the season.

Parish Office:

16145S. RT 44 HWY
Allenwood, PA 17810

Parsonage Phone:

(570) 547-1386

Pastor Mike's Cell:

(570) 974-8590

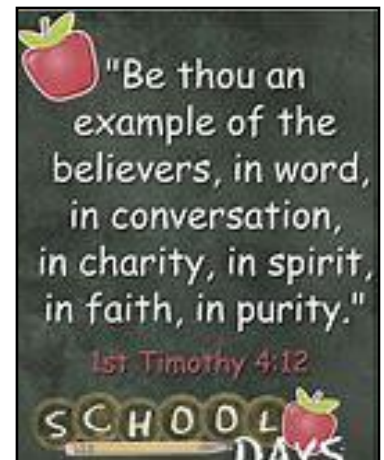
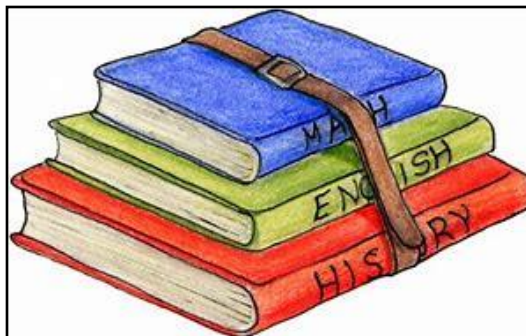
Parish Website:

www.evpumc.org

Parish email:

elimsportumc@gmail.com

www.evpumc.org



Our Mission Statement at Elimsport UMC



We gather together as a community of Christian believers to worship, fellowship, and to learn more about God. By the unity of the Spirit and the support of each other, we are able to reach out to the community and the world.

Our Mission Statement at St. John's UMC



The purpose of St. John's is to both evangelize and nurture. We are called to show God's love in our world by giving aid and by spreading the Good News of Christ. We in turn provide an atmosphere for nurturing where Biblical truths are shared enabling people to become spiritually enriched. By providing this, people will learn and through learning, become more effective witnesses.