

Bower Hill Community Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

February
2005

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

Beginnings

While January, with the beginning of the New Year, is the time that we traditionally think about new beginnings, here it is at the end of January and I find myself still focused in on beginnings. Could this be because January has passed by so quickly? Or maybe it's because our lives are so filled with endings and beginnings that it is natural at all times to think about beginnings.

Here at the church, we will end the month of January with our Semi-Annual Congregational meeting. At this meeting, we will celebrate the ministry that we as God's church have accomplished together. We approach this year's meeting with joy, because of the generous pledges that were made in recent weeks only required minimal adjustments to the budget. Thank-you!

As January draws to an end, the Surfing the Edge surveys are in your hands (or on your computer). There has been a great deal of support for this effort and we have been pleased with the number of people who have been willing to participate in the survey. Remember that the surveys need to be completed by January 31st. And while the surveys will be turned in by the end of January, the work for the church is just beginning. As the results are tabulated, we will begin to study, plan, and dream about a new beginning for Bower Hill Community Church as we consider what God is calling us to be in the present and the future. This is an exciting time for the church!

As we turn the calendar over to the month of February, we will soon be entering the season of Lent. On Wednesday February 9th, we will be worshipping God with an Ash Wednesday service. It is our hope that you will enter this holy season with purpose and with the desire to grow closer to God as you journey toward the cross and resurrection.

In addition to the Ash Wednesday service, we hope to help you on the Lenten journey, by holding Services of Healing and Blessing each Wednesday during Lent. On Wednesday February 16th through Wednesday March 16th we will gather for a soup supper at 6:45 pm, which will be followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. It is our hope that these services will be a new beginning for you as you deepen your relationship with God.



Lent

This is a time of possibilities for all of us. Let us boldly go forward to the new beginnings that await.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laurie Sponaugle

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Youth News:



Middle School Events

Sat. 12th SnoZone!

Meet at the church at 5:00 for a quick dinner before leaving for the SnoZone!! We'll be back around 10:00. Bring \$14 with you.

Sat. 19th Scavenger Hunt

Come to the church from 4-6:00pm for a mystery event. For this game, clues will be scattered throughout the church and will solve a mystery when you find them all. Come ready to be a sleuth!

Senior High

Sun. 6th Super Bowl Party

Meet at Ben Hohlfelder's house around 6:00 to watch the game. Bring a snack or drink to share.

Fri. 25th– Sat. 26th World Vision 30-Hour Famine. See details below.

March 4th Sr. High River Cruise

More details coming in Sunday School and in the bulletin.

Friends are always welcome! For events that we need drivers or tickets, please let Nadine know ahead of time if you're coming and how many friends you're bringing (by Wednesday would be great)!! Ways to sign up for an event:

1. Sign up sheets outside of Nadine's office
2. Call Nadine at the church, 561-4114
3. Email Nadine at na@bhccml.com

You also need to fill out a one-time medical form, a permission form for each activity away from the church, and a release form for SnoZone and 30-Hour Famine.

Sr. Highs...are you fed up with world hunger? Then "ACT. FAST." On February 25-26 we'll be joining with other youth in the Presbytery, as well as thousands of other youth groups across the nation and world, for the 30-Hour Famine. It's an event that raises millions of dollars each year for World Vision, a Christian relief organization that works in the US and in over 100 countries world-wide. We'll be spending the weekend at the Pittsburgh Project where we'll have dynamic speakers, worship, Bible study, activities, and work projects at the Pittsburgh Project and the World Vision warehouse in Sewickley...all this while we're experiencing, for 30 hours, the hunger that much of the world endures everyday. The money we raise will go straight to World Vision for their ministry to those in need. Take a look at www.30hourfamine.org for more info. Join us for Sunday School this month where we'll be talking about the poor, what it means to fast, where is God in world hunger?, and details of the 30-Hour Famine. See you Sunday morning!

Who?	Sr. High Students
When?	Meet here at 6:30 pm on Friday, we'll be back at 7:30 pm on Saturday
Where?	The Pittsburgh Project on the North Side of Pittsburgh
Cost?	\$35.00

Congregation...how can YOU help??? Easy. This is NOT a youth group fundraiser – all the money goes directly to World Vision's ministry. Make a decision to sponsor these students, either individually or as a group, then make a donation to World Vision. Please pray for the students as they experience God in a new way during the World Vision 30-Hour Famine. You are also invited to join us in the fast, volunteer to drive, or participate as a chaperone. Please talk to Nadine for more information.

All Sr. High students are encouraged to sign up for an awesome week of Workcamp this summer!! We'll be crossing the border into CANADA to serve the residents of Sarnia, Ontario from July 2nd-9th. Once we get there, we'll join with other youth groups from all over the country to make work crews of 5 or 6 people. During the day we'll go into the community with our crew and serve our residents by painting, building a porch, fixing the roof, etc. At night, we'll all be together again for awesome evening programs and activities. Workcamp will be the BEST week of your summer!!! Find out more about Group Workcamps on their website. www.groupworkcamps.com Sign up NOW – bring a \$100 deposit to save your spot!

Youth Work Camp:

Adults, we would love for you to get involved! Please talk to Nadine if you would like to help out:

Sat. Feb. 12	SnoZone	Dinner, Drivers
Sat. Feb. 19	Scavenger Hunt	Chaperones
Fri. Feb. 25-Sat. 26	30-Hour Famine	Sponsors, Chaperones/Drivers
Fri. Mar. 4	River Cruise	Chaperones/Drivers
Sat. July 2–Sat. July 9	Workcamp	Chaperones/Drivers

2005 Budget

The 2005 Budget that was forwarded to the membership along with the Annual Report was the one recommended to Session by the Finance Committee and the chairs of the various other committees. This was done as it was necessary to mail the Annual Report prior to Session's meeting on Jan. 24th. At the Session meeting a motion was made and approved to increase the proposed Mission and Outreach budget by \$1000 to \$34,260, the same as it had been in 2004. To offset this increase three committees volunteered the following reductions in their budget line items: Buildings & Grounds-\$400 from Repairs & Maintenance; Christian Education-\$100 from Supplies and \$200 from Adult Education; and Membership & Evangelism-\$300 from Promotion. These changes were included in the final 2005 budget approved by Session. Please note these changes on your copy of the 2005 budget.

—Kurt Kerner; Chair, Finance and Stewardship Committee

Church News:

Presbytery Report—Dave Green reporting

Pittsburgh Presbytery met on Thursday, December 2, 2004 at 1 p.m. in the Whitehall United Presbyterian Church, Whitehall. Commissioners representing Bower Hill Church were Elder Woody Hughes and The Rev. Leonard Sponaugle. Elder Dave Green attended by appointment of Presbytery.

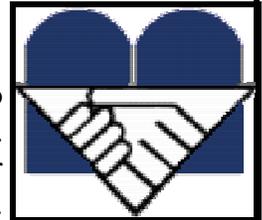
The Reverend Carol Divens Roth, stated supply pastor of Waverly United Presbyterian Church, East End, was elected Senior Vice Moderator. The Senior Vice Moderator becomes Moderator after one year. The moderator in 2005 is The Rev. David Carver, pastor of First U.P. Church, Crafton Heights.

Presbytery Council reported that \$10,000 was received from Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund for churches damaged by floods resulting from Hurricane Ivan. Council allocated \$5,000 each to Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church and Good Shepherd United Presbyterian Church in Oakdale. Furniture was donated by Levin Furniture. It will be sold and proceeds will be designated for flood relief. Council proposed and Presbytery agreed to forgive past due per capita payments through 2003 at Glenshaw Valley (\$11,597) and Good Shepherd (\$7,343).

Presbytery budget for 2005 was approved at \$3,024,819. Expenses and income are balanced by expecting new shared benevolence giving of \$190,000. If there is a shortfall in this income item, the Presbytery approved withdrawal of up to \$142,500 from trust funds (1.5%). Also, the position of Stated Clerk will become ½ time effective July 1. Dave Green has copies of the approved budget. The next Presbytery meeting is Thursday, February 3, 2005, at 1 p.m. in the Hazelwood Presbyterian Church, Hazelwood (Pittsburgh). Session should elect two commissioners.

On a Mission:

SHIM News



Bower Hill Church has joined people all over the world who are providing assistance to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami and the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan. Our church members have donated \$1,400 dollars so far for tsunami victims, either through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance or the private organization World Vision. Meanwhile, our Mission Committee recently donated 1,000 dollars to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help victims of the man-made disaster in Western Sudan.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance provides emergency relief, aid to refugees and development assistance to people through One Great Hour of Sharing funds and designated gifts made by churches or individuals. PDA acts by directly supporting our local Presbyterian church partner in affected countries, and as a member of action by churches together—a worldwide network of Christian churches and their related agencies for disaster response. Action by churches together responds to emergencies through its local members who have longstanding commitments and experience working with the people of their region.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided \$320,000 dollars so far for emergency relief for tsunami victims. Funds are being used to provide food, shelter, water, sanitation and health teams in temporary displacement camps. In Sri Lanka, for example, truckloads of dry rations, clothes, medicines and cooking utensils have been sent throughout the country. Temporary shelters are being built to provide immediate shelter to those who have lost their homes. Feeding programs at public sites are providing cooked food or dry rations to disaster survivors. In addition, blankets, mats, mosquito nets, soap and baby bottles are being distributed.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has provided \$250,000 dollars so far to aid refugees in Darfur, Sudan. According to Doctors Without Borders, due to a lack of food and other factors, the mortality rate of children under 5 is close to 6 per 10,000 everyday in some areas. PDA is helping support two action by churches together clinics that see 200 to 300 people each day, as well as giving supplementary food to malnourished children. Other priorities are providing sanitation assistance and digging wells to create nearby sources of water for refugees. Hopefully, these actions will help to stem what would otherwise be a more massive loss of lives.

Wallace Memorial Food Pantry

The food pantry appreciates your donations during the month of FEBRUARY.

Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in February (February 13th).

Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

—Jason Rising



Grocery Card Gift Sales

The Men's Breakfast Group continues to sell Giant Eagle and Shop & Save Cards with the net proceeds benefiting our Operating Budget. During 2004 nearly \$40,000 of cards were sold with net proceeds of over \$1,500.

They plan to continue selling these before and after the 10:15 service on Sundays for the foreseeable future. Cards are also available during the week thru the church office, but it is suggested you call ahead so that they can be available for pick-up. While Giant Eagle Cards have sold very well, we still have an inventory of Shop & Save Cards, which people seem to forget about, and all of our "profit" is tied up in these cards.

Hopefully, some of us that patronize Shop & Save as well as Giant Eagle will think about one of their cards as well.

The following newsflash was taken from the Habitat Cluj website about the houses you helped me to build...

Four Families Have New Habitat Homes

posted on 01 Jan 2005

The holidays brought the best of gifts for the Cira, Deak, Nicola and Pacurar families: the keys to their new Habitat-built homes!

The new building comprises 4 apartments, for 4 low-income families. The complex was dedicated right before the holidays, on December 21st. The terrain was donated by a generous person who wishes to remain anonymous.

Present at the dedication were local officials as well as friends and relatives of our partner families. It was an emotional moment for all 4 families, but especially for the 17 children that will practically live under the same - generously sized - roof. To emphasize the importance of the moment, the sun came out to pour one extra drop of light in the heart of the 4 families.

"I have lived in the last seven years in a garage, together with my 8 children. I never hoped to get my own house someday. Habitat built not only a house, but a better life for my children. It has given them confidence and hope. Habitat helped us feel safe again", says Ms. Cira

Habitat for Humanity Global Village currently has trips planned and available to the following countries: Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Alberta, Canada, Armenia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Northern Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Alaska, Florida, New Mexico and South Dakota. A 'repeat' trip to Cluj, Romania in early September, led by the same team as the trip I took is also being planned. These trips usually cost around \$1400 plus airfare, but remember that the Margaret McKee Scholarship fund may pay up to 75% of your costs. Please contact me (Jean Miewald) or check out the web site www.habitat.org/gv for more information about these trips.



Free Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site #141 will be at South Hills Bible Chapel, room 002. South Hills Bible Chapel is located at 300 Gallery Drive, McMurray, PA.

FYI: Tax Help:

Free tax service will be offered starting February 1, 2005 through April 15, 2005, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The doors of the church will not open prior to 8 a.m. There will be no Saturday hours. No appointments are necessary. Walk-ins only.

Please bring pertinent tax documents such as: W-2 forms, interest and dividend statements, pension information, social security and/or railroad retirement statements, total amounts of itemized deductions, (medical, interest, taxes, charity and miscellaneous deductions), copies of Federal and PA returns for the tax year 2003, and the tax packages received in the mail.

Education & Nurture:

Adult Education Schedule

February 6—Variations on the Theme of Easter; George Vosburgh, Pittsburgh Symphony

February 13—Variations on the Theme of Easter; George Vosburgh, Pittsburgh Symphony

February 20—Defining Themes of Lent; Rev. John Yohe

February 27—Variations on the Theme of Easter; George Vosburgh, Pittsburgh Symphony



Bookworms

Please join us for an interesting evening; new faces are always welcome!

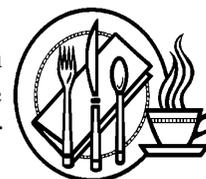
February 15, 2005—*Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini, at the home of Betsy Hohlfelder.

March - *Final Solution* - Michael Chabon, tba.

April - *Devil in the White City* - Erik Larson, tba.

The Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers will be returning in March, when your hosts will be George & Eleanora Freas. Look for your invitation in the mail!



Worship News:

Healing Body & Spirit

Soup Supper & Worship on Wednesday Evenings

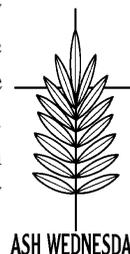
During the season of Lent, we will be holding Services of Healing and Blessing on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. These services will take place in the sanctuary chancel and will include Tazie music, prayer, contemplation and communion. There will be an opportunity during the service for individuals to come forward so that one of the Pastors can pray for them. These service is modeled after the Services of Healing and Wholeness in our Book of Common Worship and they will be similar to the Services of Healing and Wholeness that were held last year.

The services will be held on Feb. 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16.

Join us for a soup supper each Wednesday at 6:45 pm before worship!

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Join us in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30 pm, for our Ash Wednesday Worship Service. Remember that Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. Come and begin your journey toward the Cross!



Kid's Own Worship Leaders for February

Remember that Kids Own Worship begins at 10:15 am. Please arrive in the library by 10 am to greet early arrivals.

February 6—Kathy Philson

February 13—Carolyn Westerhoff

February 20—Nancy Criswell

February 27—Michelle Patrick

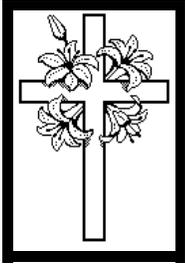


Communion Servers for March

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, March 6, 2005**. If you are not able to attend church on January 2nd, please arrange for a substitute.

Bill Andrews
Nancy Andrews
Jackie Holdsworth
Ben Holdsworth
Tim Lease
Marge McKee
Ivan Shnorhokian
Donna Williams
Choir Servers: Pat Jacobs & Rick Jacobs





Joys and Concerns

MEMBERS AT HOME:

Lois Conley, 1150 Bower Hill Rd, 1116A, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085
Kenn Fetterman, 2236 Kingridge Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Barbara Love, 360 Jefferson Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Kathryn McKee, 1929 Spring Valley Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Jim & Mildred Redmond, 101 Manor View Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
George & Verna Rose, 136 North Wren Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Loretta Schweinbratten, 2960 Bethel Church Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15102
Morris Standfest, 921 Old Hickory Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Duane Stewart, 1171 Arrowwood Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

MEMBERS IN CARING FACILITIES:

Bette Carson, Masonic Home, One Masonic Dr, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Peggy Craig, Asbury Villas, 730 Bower Hill Rd, #110, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Raymond Craig, Asbury Villas, 730 Bower Hill Rd, #110 Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Catheryn Deemer, Broadmore Assisted Living #236, 3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Bob Gavett, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd., #6443, 15243
Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Audrey Weber, Windsor Place, One Windsor Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Our Elders and Deacons

The Session

Administration & Personnel—Dave Green, chair; Dick Westerhoff
Buildings & Grounds—Tim Lease, chair; Don Lamb
Christian Education—Alan Hohlfelder, chair; Pam Maniet
Community Building—Diane Leeson, chair; Linda Johnson, Zoe Kelly
Evangelism & Membership—Glenn Child, chair; Woody Hughes
Finance & Stewardship—Kurt Kerner, chair; Dick Junker, Kirk Ketchum
Mission & Outreach—Jackie Holdsworth, chair; Dave Hicks
Nominating—Betty Ewing & Lynne Wohleber
Worship & Music—Anne Mitchell, chair; Steve Mangin
Youth Ministries—Curt Philson, chair
Clerk of Session—George Freas
Treasurer—Kurt Kerner

The Deacons

2005

Mary Good
Susan Hicks
Chan Ketchum
Kathy Philson
Phyllis Yohe

2006

Barbara Brown
LuAnne McNickle
Lee Ferrero
Joann Vosburgh
Donna Williams

2007

Bob Bridges
Nancy Green
Nora Shnorhokian
Dave Stewart
Cindy Waller

COMEDY CORNER



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00- 9:45 am Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary
- 9:00-10:00 am Sunday School for all ages
- 9:45-10:15 am Fellowship Time in the Friendship Room
- 10:15-11:15 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
- 11:15-11:45 am Fellowship Time in the Friendship Room

OUR CHURCH STAFF

David Daugherty, *Director of Music Ministries*
Jim Kline, *Custodian*
Dianne Scott, *Financial Secretary*
Rev Laurie Sponaugle, *Co-Pastor*
Rev Leonard Sponaugle, *Co-Pastor*
Yara Toury-Vanzin, *Administrative Secretary*
Nadine Wade, *Director of Youth Ministries*

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114
Monday - Friday
8:45 am - 4:45 pm

STAFF EMAIL ADDRESSES:

David Daugherty: da@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott: di@bhccml.com

The Reverend Laurie Sponaugle: la@bhccml.com

The Reverend Leonard Sponaugle: le@bhccml.com

Yara Toury-Vanzin: ya@bhccml.com

Nadine Wade: na@bhccml.com

General Office: office@bhccml.com

Our Web Page is: www.bhccml.com

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