

Bower Hill Community Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

April
2005

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

New Beginnings

As crazy as things usually get during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, I admit that I am always sad when Easter is over. The anticipation of Easter and the celebration of the resurrection is filled with such joy that it makes the rest of the year seem so ordinary. What is there to look forward to? This seems especially noticeable this year, since Easter seemed to come right on the heels of Christmas.

As I started thinking about this, I couldn't help remembering my homily from the Ecumenical Good Friday Service. I was asked to preach on the phrase, "It is finished..." During my homily I considered this victory cry of Jesus which marked both an ending: the end of his life on earth, the end of all he needed to accomplish in life, the end of his saving work, and a beginning: the beginning of new life, the beginning of redemption, the beginning of grace.

Isn't it true that usually the ending of something, marks the beginning of something new? On April 17th, four confirmation students will join the church. Their time in the confirmation class will have drawn to an end, while their new life of faith will be just beginning. As they profess their faith and enter into full membership in the church, a new journey will begin for them as they try to make sense of what being a faithful member of God's church is about.

As we experience Confirmation Sunday this year, perhaps we can all see it as an opportunity to consider our own faith journey. Let us reflect on the newness of life that God is always offering us. Let us remember with gratitude the ways that God has been involved in our lives. And let us accept God's invitation to continue growing in our faith.

Each day is a new beginning for us, no matter our age. And each one is full of opportunities to respond to God's grace and love. Let us boldly go forward with joy and celebrate God's grace as we remember that Easter is never really over as God continues to offer us new life and new beginnings.

In Christ,

Rev. Laurie Sponaugle



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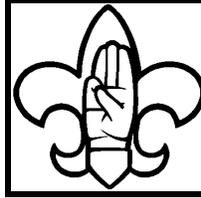
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Church News:

Flea Market Proceeds

In this newsletter there is an announcement about the 2005 Flea Market. These sales have long been a part of Bower Hill Community Church and the proceeds from them have provided for a myriad of useful things for the church that were not provided for in the regular budget. The proceeds from 2004 paid for two things: \$1,000.00 went to the 2004 Youth Work Camp and the balance will pay for the renovation of the women's restroom next to the choir room. So as you sort through your junk / unused treasures know that the items will help fund good things at the church. Please contribute!

—The Rev. Leonard Sponaugle



Scout's Corner:

Cub Scout Pack 28 celebrated 50 years of chartered partnership with Bower Hill Church in 2004. Small groups called dens meet weekly in homes or at the church, and the entire pack gets together monthly in Fellowship Hall. Recently, the boys visited WTAE and shared this essay with us.

VISIT TO WTAE

By: Sam Faust, Den #3 Webelos 1's

WTAE is a wonderful place. I visited there with the Webelos 1's in February. I had one of the best times in my life. All the workers there are very kind. Our guide, Patrick Walsh, was a fantastic guide. (He was so good I didn't even notice that I lost my religious pin.) We got to go on the set and see how everything is done. One of the funny things is that the anchors can wear jeans because their legs don't show. One of the best things was seeing how they put the newscast together. That was our best trip ever as a den!

Bower Hill Community Church Joins the Presbyterian Coffee Project



At the March 7 Session meeting, Bower Hill elders voted to participate in the Presbyterian Coffee Project. All coffee served at Bower Hill will be fairly traded coffee purchased through the Presbyterian Coffee Project. This program is part of PCUSA's Enough for Everyone program and an interdenominational program called Equal Exchange. In essence, the Presbyterian Coffee Project is part of the Fair Trade movement that guarantees the farmers who actually grow the coffee we drink a fair price and a market for the fruits of their labor. By participating in the Presbyterian Coffee project we are involved in a different type of mission. We are directly supporting farmers in Latin America, Asia, and Africa in their efforts to provide their families food, shelter, an education, and a bright future.

The traditional path a coffee bean takes from the farm to our coffee makers involves what the farmers call "coyotes" who offer the lowest price possible to the farmers and then take their "cut" and then pass it on to intermediaries who take another cut, etc. Equal Exchange buys directly from the farmers and cooperatives; roasting, packaging, and marketing the coffee (and other products!) directly through the cooperation of church groups such as PCUSA. This allows farmers to receive a fair price for their coffee and removes the uncertainty to which they were subjected before. For many farmers, Fair Trade is the difference between growing coffee and cocaine.

What effect are the Presbyterian Coffee Project and Equal Exchange having? Listen to José Luis Castillo Vásquez, a farmer from Las Colinas Coop, El Salvador: "Thanks to God and Equal Exchange, we will not die of hunger, we will not lose our land and our children are able to attend school. I want to thank all of the people that purchase our coffee. It is thanks to you that we have a seed of hope in our lives."

There are many ways to feed His sheep. The Presbyterian Coffee Project is one of them. For more information, go to <http://www.equalexchange.com/interfaith/pcusaproject.html>.

Church News:



Spring Concert:

Spring Is Here! Summer Is Right Around The Corner! Let's Celebrate Together With Music, Coffee And Dessert!

Casual dress, no charge – donations accepted; child care will be available

When: Saturday, April 30th: 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall



Join us for a night of music with one of Pittsburgh's best acoustical singer-songwriter's, Jay Hitt. Jay has been voted the 1st or 2nd best singer-songwriter in the City Paper for the past three years. Jay, via the medium of song, is the consummate storyteller. His lyrics recount a myriad of situations that appeal to people of all ages. Jay's songs will make you smile and laugh as they remind you of past romances or invoke fond memories of family life. Because Jay's voice and style are unique, it is difficult to compare him to other singers. Some of his songs are ballads similar to James Taylor or Simon and Garfunkel. Others have an upbeat tempo and are equally entertaining and captivating. You can check out some of Jay's songs at www.jayhitt.com.

While enjoying the music, sit back, sip coffee and savor the desserts. Coffee and dessert will be available all evening. Jay will be playing two sets, starting around 7:15 pm and 8:45 pm. Because the evening is informal, do not be concerned about coming in the middle of a set. Come whenever you can and stay as long as you wish. Please call the church office at 412-561-4114 and indicate the number and ages of your children requiring childcare.

The Community Building Committee and the Evangelism and Membership Committee are co-sponsoring the event. Both committees are asking for donations of desserts. Any type of baked goods would be greatly appreciated, such as cookies, brownies, muffins, pies and cakes. Please contact Diane Leeson in person, by phone: (412-341-0818) or by email (DLe5610188@aol.com), if you do plan to contribute. Also, watch for details in the church bulletins about when and where to drop off the baked goods.

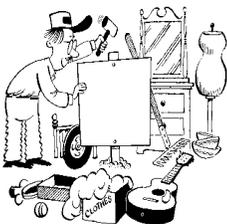
Youth News briefs

Thank you for supporting the Sr. High students who participated in the 30-Hour Famine! \$707 Dollars was raised for World Vision. Because of a government grant, that donation will be multiplied 7 times...so really \$4,949 was raised!! That can sponsor 13 kids for a whole year. THANK YOU!!



Do you have a sweet tooth?? Again this year, members of the congregation are asked to donate dessert for the Spaghetti Dinner on April 24th. If you are willing to make a treat, please tell Nadine. Thanks!

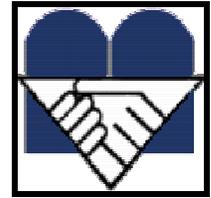
Flea Market '05



Yes, we will have a flea market on November 19th, 2005! Collections will begin on July 15, 2005 and will end on October 15th. No books, computers or clothes. Last year's money went to the Senior High Trip and remodeling the ladies room. Please participate in this event! —Jean Grabow

On A Mission:

SHIM News



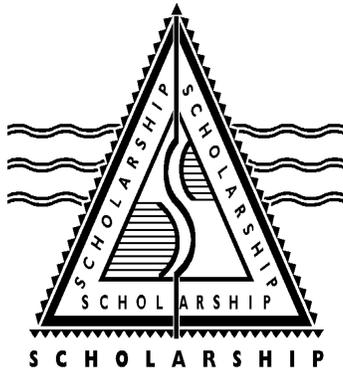
Eve Johnson is the new SHIM Family Assistance Coordinator. She joined the staff in February after Harry Dietz, former Coordinator, announced his retirement in January.

Volunteers are needed for these SHIM programs:

- The food pantry
- FaithTech: an initiative of the University of Pittsburgh. It is a technology-based program that offers introductory computer classes, free of charge, to the community.
- Summer youth camps. **Teens** are needed!

If interested, please contact Kathy Ganley at 412-854-9120, or by email at kganley@shim-center.org.

Margaret McKee Scholarship To Be Awarded



Sheldon Jackson College's Founders Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 23rd, 2005 at 1:30 pm. During the celebration, the McKee Bower Hill Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded to one student enrolled at the college. In an effort to increase the corpus of the fund, any additional gifts received will be applied toward the endowment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Brandon, Director of College Advancement at 907-747-2580 or mbrandon@sj-alaska.edu.

Last year, more than 55 students received awards thanks to the generosity of many. These awards enable students to focus on their academic goals by lessening financial burdens.

Thank-you for making a difference.

—Arthur G. Cleveland, President, Sheldon Jackson College



Wallace Memorial Food Pantry

The food pantry appreciates your donations of cereal and paper products during the month of APRIL. **Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in April (April 10th).**

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

As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

—Jason Rising



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is continuing to resource our presbyteries and churches that were devastated by the unprecedented string of powerful hurricanes in 2004. Keeping with our commitment to accompany disaster survivors throughout the arduous, long-term recovery process, PDA recently sent grants to the Presbytery of Florida and Peace River Presbytery bringing the PDA response to almost \$1.1 million.

About \$575,000 has been provided to meet the needs of disaster survivors in fifteen middle governing bodies from Puerto Rico to Pittsburgh. More than \$510,000 has been granted to help 39 churches and three Presbyterian-related colleges repair damaged property.

Physically manifesting God's love for all creation, 21 members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT) have volunteered their time (some for as long as four weeks) in response to the crisis. In providing spiritual care, damage assessment, organizational advice, and volunteer coordination, these dedicated volunteers accomplished every assignment and made it possible for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be present throughout the broad, disaster-impacted area.

Even in a major disaster, resources become scarce. As a result, volunteers are often needed to sustain the long-term recovery of disaster survivors and communities. Some of our most heavily damaged presbyteries have established a Disaster Response Task Force and are hosting and coordinating volunteer workteams. Helping others in their greatest hour of need is not only central to the church's mission, but also makes for a great spring break/summer vacation mission project. . More information about work team opportunities may be found at: <http://pcusa.org/pda/teams/sites.htm>.

Please continue to pray for the hurricane survivors who are struggling to rebuild their livelihoods. Pray also for the thousands of caregivers who have sacrificed self in providing hope and comfort to those who have suffered great loss. And remember that it is the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that makes the ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance possible - please give generously.

Stan Hankins
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

An Invitation From East Liberty Presbyterian Church

On April 9th, 2005, East Liberty Presbyterian Church will be hosting a dinner and evening program focusing on the needs of children in our churches and communities. Our special guest will be the Rev. Martha Overall, Pastor of St. Anne's Episcopal Church in the Mott Haven area of the South Bronx; her work has been written about in two books.

We hope you and others you know will join us to hear Rev. Overall and her godson, Joe Spearman, share the story of one church's embrace of the children and youth of their community. Their vision and ministry serves as a model, challenge and inspiration to all who work with children.



Please RSVP by April 5th to Carol Kirkpatrick at 412-441-3800 x 19.

—Rev. Rick Otty, Interim Pastor, East Liberty Presbyterian Church.

Education and Nurture:

Adult Education Class

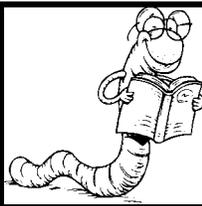
Adult Education Schedule

April 3—Israel/Palestine, Christina Michelmore, PhD from Chatham College

April 10—Israel/Palestine, Christina Michelmore, PhD from Chatham College

April 17—Business Ethics—Virginia Woods Gerde, from Duquesne University

April 24—Business Ethics—Virginia Woods Gerde, from Duquesne University



Bookworms

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

April - *Devil in the White City*, by Eric Larson, at the home of Nancy Green.

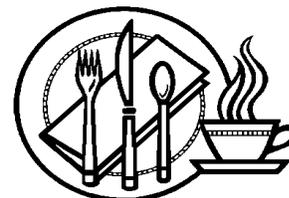
May - *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, by Tracey Kidder, at the home of Jean Miewald.

June - *Runaway*, by Alice Munro, at the home of Margaret Zabo.

July - *No Crueler Tyrannies*, by Dorothy Rabinowtz, tba.

The Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers will meet at noon on April 27th, 2005 at Peter's Place for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun Nadine Wade, our Director of Youth Ministries, will be our guest speaker. Our hosts this month are Ral & Dot Warnock, who can be reached at: 412-343-6568.



Worship News:

Preaching Schedule

April 3: Rev. Bill Roemer, Mark 16:1-8
Communion Sunday

April 10: Luke 24:13-35
9:00 am Rev. Laurie/ 10:15 am Rev. Leonard
New Members Welcomed

April 17: John 10:1-10
9:00 am Rev. Laurie / 10:15 am Rev. Leonard
Confirmation Sunday

April 24: John 14:1-14
9:00 am Rev. Laurie / 10:15 am Rev. Leonard

Communion Servers for May

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, May 1st, 2005**. If you are not able to attend church on May 1st, please arrange for a substitute.

Jane Decker
Eleanora Freas
George Freas
Linda Johnson
Phil Johnson
Kirk Ketchum
Mary Ketchum
Anne Mitchell
Choir: Jean Miewald & Joan Zakor



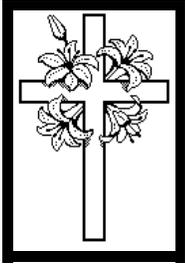
Kid's Own Worship Leaders for May

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

April 3: Alan Hohlfelder;
April 17: Cynthia Gissin;

April 10: Jackie Holdsworth;
April 24: Donna Williams





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

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., #6423, 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

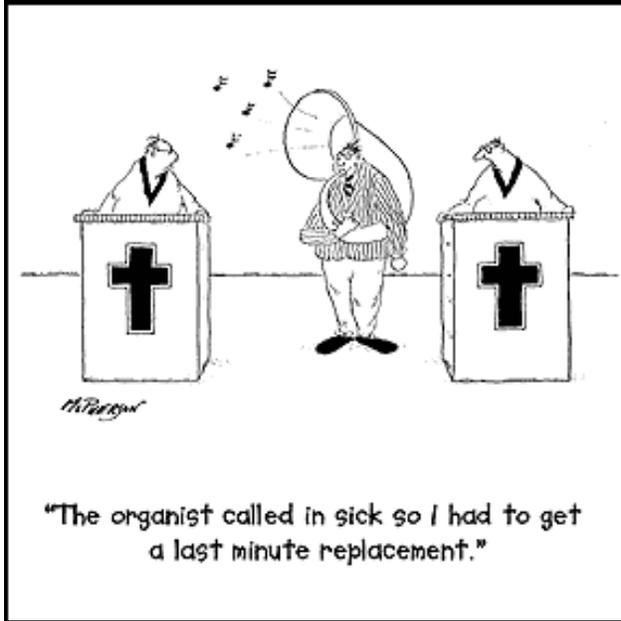
2006

Barbara Brown
LuAnne McNickle
Lee Ferrero
Joann Vosburgh
Donna Williams

2007

Bob Bridges
Nancy Green
Nora Shnorhokian
Dave Stewart
Cindy Waller

COMEDY CORNER



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

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Our Web Page is: www.bhccml.com

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