

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

NOVEMBER 2005

Catching Dreams

Have you ever thought about how powerful dreams can be? Dreams can help to transform reality. Dreams are the place where imagination, creativity and possibility all come together. When we dream dreams, we imagine ways that things can be different. When we dream dreams, we start to create a new vision. When we dream dreams, we begin to see new possibilities. As we look to 2006, the time has come to dream some new dreams for Bower Hill. When I looked back over our past stewardship themes, I realized that we had talked a great deal about dreams right after our arrival at Bower Hill. Our dreams included: a new worship experience, the hiring of a youth director, and more opportunities for fellowship and intergenerational mission. Did you notice that all those dreams have been realized? Together, we have made those dreams into reality! As I think about how some of the challenges along the way, I am amazed at some of the wonderful, unforeseen glitches that actually made the dreams even more wonderful. Moving the new worship service from 6pm to 9am and introducing the new curriculum which inspired us to include the children in worship on the first Sunday of the month are changes that we did not anticipate and they made the dream even sweeter than we imagined.

As those dreams have come to pass through the hard work of so many at Bower Hill, the time has come to catch some new dreams. The Session continues to struggle with the question, "What is God calling Bower Hill Community Church to be in 2006?" We are considering this question in a very organized way as we explore the data from the Surfing the Edge survey and soon we as a church will be invited into the conversation so that we can struggle together to discern God's new dreams for Bower Hill and how we respond to it.

Do not doubt that there are amazing possibilities out there for those who dare to dream. Bower Hill is a community of faith that has been transformed by the power of dreams. Every time we look around at the needs of the world and wonder how we can respond, and every time we start to envision a new reality and struggle to make our dreams come true we, with God's help, are able to make this world a better place. The needs are great but the talents and the gifts that we bring to this work that God has called us to do, are even greater; especially when they are strengthened by God's presence and support.

Let us begin to catch some new dreams together.
And let us strive to always be a part of God's
dream as we work to transform this world into a
place where love, and peace, and hope reign.

Faithfully,

Revs. Laurie & Leonard



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Church News

Community Building News

The committee is planning two fellowship opportunities for the month of December:



Saturday, December 3rd at 8:30 a.m.— Fellowship

The annual “Deck the Halls” event. Come with an appetite because there will be pancakes. Additional information will be available in the church bulletins beginning in **mid-November**.

Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 p.m. (after the Steeler game) — Caroling in the neighborhood around the church. We will return to the church after caroling for warm soup, warm beverages and dessert. Watch for details in the December newsletter.

*Both events are intended to be multi-generational.

Prayer Chain

The Deacons are organizing an e-mail prayer chain. If you would like to be a part of this prayer chain, please send your e-mail address to Kathy Philson at KathyGRB@aol.com.

E-mail Prayer Chain



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Meet Mike Tidd

In August, the Nominating and Personnel Committee hired Michael “Mike” Tidd to serve as our Youth Director. Mike comes to us as a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where he will be graduating in May.

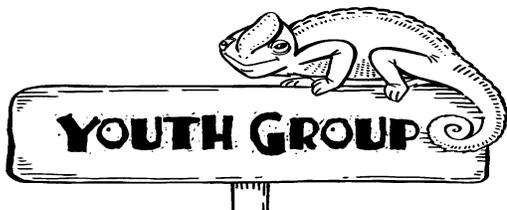
Mike has been married to Beth for twelve years. Beth works as a Speech Therapist with the Children’s Institute and Early Intervention. They have two children who attend Fort Cherry Elementary School: Hannah, who is nine years old and in the fourth grade, and Evan, who is nearly six years old and in kindergarten. The Tidd Family lives in McDonald, just a short drive from the church.

Mike comes to us after pastoring churches in Ohio and Pennsylvania. He has been in ministry since 1993 by serving as “the” pastor, associate pastor, or youth pastor of seven different churches and other organizations including being a Chaplain at a Veteran Affairs Medical Center and a Drug, Alcohol, and Behavioral Counselor for a rehabilitation facility. Mike also served in the U.S. Army for nearly ten years and currently serves in the U.S. Air Force’s Civil Air Patrol.

We welcome Mike and his family to our church and pray for God’s blessing on our time together.

Youth Calendar of Events for November

- 6th Middle School Youth 6-8 PM
- 7th Youth Ministries Committee at 7 PM
- 13th Senior High Youth 6-8 PM
- 19th Youth Food Booth at the Church Flea Market
- 20th Middle School Youth 6-8 PM
- 27th Senior High Youth 6-8 PM



Poinsettias

This year’s Poinsettia orders will be accepted from November 27 through December 9th. The plants are \$10.00 each and will be used for the Church Christmas tree display. Order forms will be included in the December newsletter and will also be available in the church office.

Please complete one order form for each Poinsettia purchased. For further information contact the church office or call Cindy Waller at 412-571-1346.



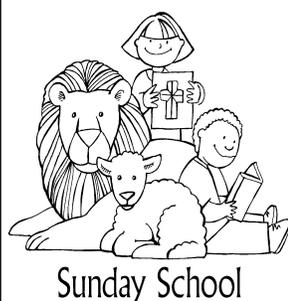
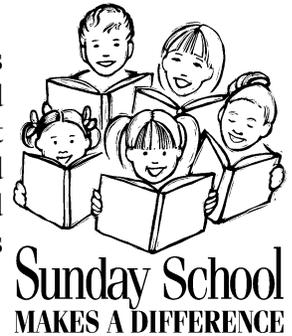
Education and Nurture

Fourth and Fifth Grade's Faith in Action

By Cheryl Gross & Mary Beth Waine

This program year, Bower Hill's Fourth and Fifth Graders are *acting* on their faith lessons. In September, while we were reading Bible passages on **knowing** our faith, we collected 67 gently used picture and easy reader books to donate to Clairton School's Kindergarten and First Grade Classes. We learned that up to 40 % of the Clairton Kindergarten Students DO NOT grow-up with books in their home. We hope our donation will help them to **know** books and reading.

Determination is our October theme. While we are learning about God's **determination** to have us know Him and Paul's **determination** to spread the good news, we will be contemplating the **determination** of bulbs to bloom in Spring. Next Spring, as you visit the St Clair Hospital complex, stop by the interior courtyard between the Hospital and Professional Building. The bulbs planted by the Fourth and Fifth Grade class should be blooming and bringing cheer to patients, staff and visitors as our *Faith in Action* helps us bloom.



An Invitation to the Church from the Fourth and Fifth Grade Class

The Sunday School theme for November is **gratitude**. When we are purposeful in thinking about **gratitude**, we can think of a dozen things each day for which we can give thanks. If we are not purposeful, it is easy to think only about how busy, stressed, lonely, sad, frustrated, tired, or hurt we are. During November, the Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School Class invites you to join them in constructing a *Tree of Thanks*, a celebration of **gratitude**.

The project will be announced at both services on the first Sunday in November. During the first three weeks in November, each member and visitor to the church is encouraged to be purposeful in contemplating their personal **gratitude**. Fall leaves made from paper will be available in the narthex. Take a leaf each week and write one thing for which you are thankful. Your thanksgiving may be for great things, a successful outcome of a medical procedure—or for little things, the person who made your day through some small act of kindness...something that has made **all** the difference to YOU. Be purposeful; add a leaf to the tree each week. The children will affix your leaves to the tree.

Adult Education For November

Environmental Stewardship

November 6th—David Dzombak—Professor of Civil Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

November 13th—David Dzombak—Professor of Civil Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University.

November 20th—Dave Green; TBA.

What Is This Christmas Thing All About?

November 27th—John Yohe; Advent/Christmas



On a Mission

A Special Thanks

—Susan Hicks



To our Youth Group:

Words, even words from 70 tiny people, cannot express how grateful the Kindergarteners from Clairton Elementary School were when, on their first day of school, they were presented with canvas bags filled to the brim with so many needed school supplies. I was so privileged to deliver these generous gifts that our Youth Group put together and donated to our children who have so little.

The teachers have since had the children dip their hands in paint and place their handprints on their own bags. They then used this opportunity as a learning experience by having each child learn how to write their own first names and print them on their bags.

These children do not often get such nice gifts. As an administrator at Clairton, I rarely get to experience such a fun opportunity as I did when I delivered those bags. Even though many students came to school with a variety of other bags, they still also carry their canvas bags from our Youth Group with them everyday.

Thank you so much to our Youth Group for their generosity. The smiles will go on for a long time.

KATRINA



Mission Opportunity

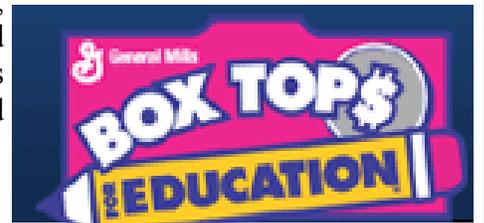
—Dave Hicks

This is a reminder to all church members that there are funds available through the Margaret McKee Fund to aid any member who may want to travel to the hurricane disaster areas to assist in the cleanup/rebuilding effort. There are restrictions and limitations. Any interested member should send a written description of their plan to the Mission Committee.

Campbell Labels and Box Tops for Education for the Hopi Mission School

—Joanne McAnulty

Thanks to all of you who continue to collect Campbell Labels and Box Tops for Education. We collect the labels for a van needed at the Hopi Christian Mission in Kytotsmovi, Arizona. At last report they have 400,000 labels in the Campbell's account (toward 1,500,000) Also, the school has received \$3,000.00 for Boxtops 4 Education in 2004-2005. Please take the labels and boxtops to the marked envelope on the counter in the church office. Hopi Mission School is a Christian school dedicated to developing the whole child. Through sound academic instruction, every child's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual potential will be fully recognized producing life long learners. While respecting the Hopi heritage, this instruction will be provided within a framework of Christian values and in a caring and creative environment.



Wallace Memorial Food Pantry

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

Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in November (November 13th). Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information. As always, your support is greatly appreciated! —Jason Rising



Worship News

Communion Servers for December

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, December 4th, 2005**. If you are not able to attend church on December 4th, please arrange for a substitute.

Bob & Joan Bridges
Julia Snead
Dave & Susan Hicks
Woody & Barbara Hughes
Bob Winnett
Choir: Joan Zakor and Margaret Zabo



Greeters

November 6—Holdsworth (Ben & Jackie), Heckman (Lucille), Helbling (Nina)
November 13—Junker (Dick & Kate), Johnson (Moody), Kelly (Zoe)
November 20—Kerner (Kurt), Ketchum (Chan & Louise), Ketchum (Kirk & Mary)
November 27th—Knox (Graham & Carol), Kohman (Truman & Jane), Kane (Jim & Dawn)

Coffee Hour

November 6—Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder
November 13— Dick & Kate Junker
November 20—Phil & Linda



Community Thanksgiving Service

This year's Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Tuesday, November 22nd, 7:30 p.m. at Temple Emmanuel in the South Hills. Child-care will be provided, but you must call the Temple in advance to let them know the number of children you will be bringing. Please call: 412-279-7600



Preaching Schedule

November 6-Communion
9:00 am- Gratitude (family worship service)
10:15 am-Rev. Leonard Sponaugle

November 13-Stewardship Dedication Sunday
9:00 am- Rev. Laurie Sponaugle
10:15 am- Rev. Laurie Sponaugle

November 20
9:00 am- Rev. Laurie Sponaugle Thanksgiving
10:15 am- Rev. Leonard Sponaugle

November 27- First Sunday of Advent
9:00 am Rev. Laurie Sponaugle
10:15am Rev. Leonard Sponaugle



Kid's Own Worship

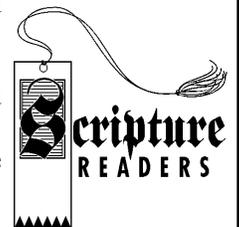
November 6—
Cindy Waller
November 13—
Betsy & Alan Hohlfelder
November 20—
Rhonda & Jake Magdsick
November 27—
Sherri Kohler



Christmas Worship Service Leaders

If you've never been a reader for the Christmas Eve Worship Services, WE WANT YOU!!! If you've always wanted to read, but no one ever asked you to, WE ARE ASKING YOU NOW!!!

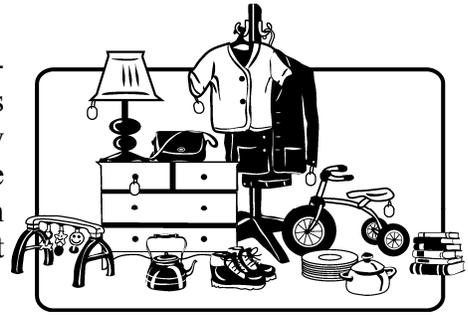
Readers for both the 5p.m. and 8p.m. services on Saturday, December 24th are needed, please volunteer!



News and Events

Flea Market Helpers Needed

The Flea Market will be held Saturday, November 19th from 8:00-3:00. We need help with both the *sale* and the *set up*. Set up times are Thursday, November 17th beginning at 1:00 p.m. and Friday November 18th beginning at 9:30 am. We will work until we are finished. Help one day or all three (bring a brown bag lunch on Friday and Saturday). Any questions please contact Jean Grabow at 412-343-4396.



Global Poverty Gap Date Changes

Dates for the Global Poverty Gap have changed. The series will begin on Wednesday, November 30th at 6:30 pm at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library. All programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please note the date changes below:

Wednesday, November 30

Dr. Sky Foerster

Wednesday, December 7

Brian Tirimanne

Tuesday, December 13

Dr. Jean-Jacques Sene

Wednesday, December 21

Dr. Jean-Jacques Sene



The Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers will meet at noon on November 30, 2005 at Nevillewood. This month's hosts are Jack & LuAnn Pattison at: 412-279-0568.



Please mark your calendars. More details will follow in the mail.

Bookworms

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

November 15th—*The Book Seller of Kabal*, by Anne Seierstad, at the home of Margaret Zabo.

December—No Meeting.

January 17th—*1776*, by David McCullough, TBA.



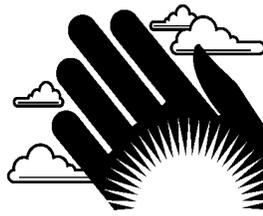
Lifeline Program

St. Clair Hospital Lifeline Program makes a difference for community residents by providing personal emergency response 24 hours a day/365 days a year. Through October 1, 2005 through November 30, 2005, the program will be offering **free installation**, at a savings of \$50. Please contact Christina Gilfoyle, Coordinator, St. Clair Hospital Lifeline, 412-942-2093.



Services of Healing and Wholeness

For so many of us the Christmas season is full of chaos, with so much to do and so little time to do it! For many it is also a very difficult time of loneliness, as it is filled with memories of loved ones who have died. With this in mind, we invite you to take some time out during the Advent season to join us at a Service of Healing and Wholeness. Services will be held on Wednesday November 30th and Wednesday December 14th at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary.



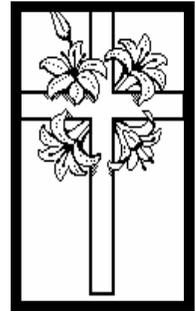
A HEALING SERVICE

The services will include: Taize music, a short reflection, time for silent meditation, a time to come forward to pray and be anointed with oil, and communion. We hope you will consider taking time out during Advent to center yourself in God's presence.

Care List

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
Jim Redmond, 101 Manor View Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Verna Rose, c/o Gretchen Rose, 134 Grove Avenue, Woodridge, NJ 07095
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
Raymond & Peggy Craig, Asbury Villas, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Catheryn Deemer, Broadmore Assisted Living #205, 3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Bob Gavett, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd., #6423, 15243
Bill Nuernberg, Friendship Village #123W, 1290 Boyce Rd, Upper St. Clair, 15241
Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Audrey Weber, Windsor Place, One Windsor Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Elders & Deacons

Administration & Personnel: Chairperson—Pat Jacobs; Woody Hughes

Buildings & Grounds: Don Lamb

Christian Education: Chairperson—Pam Maniet; Dan Zabo

Community Building: Chairperson—Diane Leeson; Lynne Wohleber

Evangelism & Membership: Chairperson—Glenn Child; Betty Ewing

Finance & Stewardship: Chairperson—Kurt Kerner; Dick Junker, Jason Rising

Mission: Chairperson: Dave Hicks; Jackie Holdsworth

Nominating & Presbytery: Chairperson—Tim Lease; Margie Sewall

Music & Worship: Chairperson—Anne Mitchell; Steve Mangin

Youth Ministries: Chairperson—Curt Philson; Christine Henney

Deacons Class of 2006

Barbara Brown
LuAnne McNickle
Lee Ferrero
Joann Vosburgh
Donna Williams

Deacons Class of 2007

Bob Bridges
Nancy Green
Nora Shnorhokian
Dave Stewart
Cindy Waller

Deacons Class of 2008

Marian Brannan
Betty Chidlow
Barbara Hughes
Kathy Philson
Carolyn Westerhoff

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

Mike Tidd, 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

Mike Tidd: mi@bhccml.com

General Office: office@bhccml.com

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