

# Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

*A place to Believe, Belong and Become!*

JANUARY 2006

## *Opportunities to show Generosity*

In December, our elementary Christian Education classes focused on generosity as their core virtue. Our curriculum defined generosity as, "making someone's day by giving something away." As always, the monthly virtue was on my mind and I was on the look out for signs of generosity this month. It was overwhelming! As always, almost from the moment the stars and angels were hung on the trees outside the Friendship Room, they disappeared, and week after week gifts for our soldiers and the women at Lydia's Place appeared under the trees. Every year I am so touched by the generosity I see from the members of our church family. But the angel and star trees were not the only signs of generosity that were visible this month. I was surprised by the 65 or so people who showed up to our open house and the multitude of gifts that were given. Our family was grateful that so many of you were able to give away some of your time during this busy holiday season. I was especially moved by the many people who commented that they had made a point of showing up in response to December's newsletter article and their concern that I was holding a party which no one was going to come to! Thank you for your concern. On Christmas Day generosity abounded as our birthday celebration was held after both services and some of 26 people from the 9:00am service and many of the 50 folks who attended the 10:15am service stayed to fellowship together.

In the coming year, there will be many more opportunities for us to show generosity to one another and to the church. As the nominating committee prepares its slate of officers, there will be opportunities for you to consider whether God is calling you to serve as a leader who can help the church to grow into the future. There will be opportunities to attend events and grow in faith and fellowship with other members of your family of faith. Each day provides a myriad of opportunities for each of us to be generous with our words of encouragement and kindness to each other. One of the most exciting opportunities for each member of the Bower Hill family will be to continue to take part in the Surfing the Edge project. If you remember, in January of 2005, many of you answered some survey questions. After a great deal of time, effort, energy and prayer, the session has considered the results of the surveys and is now ready to engage in some conversations with you about what the future of Bower Hill will look like. This endeavor will take some time, energy, imagination, and a great deal of generosity as the more people who are involved, the better the results will be. The conversations that will take place will allow you to talk and listen to one another and they will provide us with some insightful information about where we are and where we as a body hope to be in the future. They conversations will give all of us a new understanding of how others in our family of faith think and they will open our eyes to new visions of what we can become together. It is our fervent hope that every member of the Bower Hill family will be generous with their time and their thoughts so that together we can create a new vision of what God is calling us to become in the future. Let us begin to pray together in earnest about the future that God is calling us into. May God continue to bless our family of faith and our community as we listen for his voice, leading us into 2006 and beyond.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laurie & Rev. Leonard Sponaugle

**Pastor's  
Message**  
*for the*  
**NEW YEAR**



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# On A Mission

Ring in Romania—Margaret Zabo

I wanted to share some information about the mission trip I went on this past summer to Romania with an inter-generational handbell choir. I am scheduled to make a presentation regarding the trip at a future Adult Education session, but recently a seventeen year old member of the choir wrote the following piece for a handbell newsletter. I think she tells the story better than I can. So here's Sarah Mischner's account of the trip.



I never dreamed that teaching children how to play hand chimes as part of a mission trip through the International Children's Aid Foundation could really help them all that much--let alone orphans in a country I formerly only thought of in relation to Bram Stoker's "Dracula"--sure, they might enjoy it, but what kind of aid is it, really? What sort of aid could a seventeen year-old girl offer? Spending less than two weeks in Criscior, Romania, taught me how truly wrong I was.

From the very first time we set up the bells for a church service when we arrived, I could sense the fascination with the music and the instruments. The children all wanted to hold the chimes and make that music for themselves. Our first rehearsal with the kids was in the Baptist Church in Brad, the larger town scant minutes from what we referred to as home, and we started with the Celebrated Canon. I was paired with a girl about my age, Mirela, teaching her the part for her bass chime. I realized how important the music was to these people when she told me that everyone had been waiting excitedly for days, anticipating our arrival.

Their immediate love for us made the whole trip even more of a blessed experience for me. Nearly every spare moment I had was spent with the kids, from tiny Florin and Delia at Casa Emanuel (the orphanage in Criscior, where I stayed on the second floor) to Flavius (a boy a few years younger than me). The youngest loved to be held or played with, and show us how they could count to ten in English, while the older kids took part in global teenage rituals--hanging out and talking and laughing, telling us about their lives and asking about ours.

In the days that followed, I spent hours upon hours working with the chime choirs: turning pages, teaching rhythm exercises, helping with technique; even teaching something I learned at the Area II Festival, Maori Sticks. From the smallest to the oldest, they eagerly soaked up the knowledge and the skills to create music. It was so amazing for me to see them so utterly appreciative and thankful for something I didn't even think would be helpful, and so wonderful to see how happy they became when they created music. As they learned their songs and practiced them, some would break into applause in joy at what they could do.

The room where we played bells was situated over a bakery (where we would all traipse to on a quest for a pretzel or a pastry filled with vanilla or chocolate), and across the street from the new Christian Center, under construction (and a little destruction) for the duration of our stay. Sometimes as we sat at lunch, my friends on the construction team would tell me how the music floated out the window and created a constant glorious undertone to their hammering and drilling--the song "Come Christians Join to Sing," or "The Great Gate of Kiev" echoing out over the streets of Brad.

It hit me that, although I might not be working in the hospital clinic, and I wasn't involved in the construction crew, I had a lot to offer. I still do. I think that the choice to go to Romania was one of the best decisions I have ever made; Knowing that my passion for music can help people on the other side of the globe was staggering, and at the same time uplifting. Feeling needed and appreciated by people who knew me for what seems a moment in the whole of a lifetime was so touching--as if God directed us to meet and aid one another. I offered music, they offered their open arms and hearts.

# On A Mission

## Ringin in Romania (cont...)

I think the ultimate moments of realization of how great a gift it was to meet and know and help these people came when the man who directs the Romanian arm of ICAF blessed us for coming to Romania, and when someone told me the words of a woman after hearing the children play a final beautiful concert: "This is music sent from heaven."

Sarah Mischner is a high school senior at Princeton Day School. She was a member of the hand bell choir assembled to teach Romanian people to play the hand chimes donated by Area II of the American Guild for English Handbell Ringers. The other ringers included a grandmother and granddaughter, four mother/daughter teams, a husband and wife, a younger single woman and my director. In addition to teaching chimes, the choir played at a church service in Brad, in Hunedoara Castle, in a school in Criscior, and in an open-air band stand in a local park. The group's first concert was impromptu – played on the Romanian-Hungarian border to ease the 9-hour delay caused by the loss of electricity incurred by a major storm. Fellow travelers served as music holders while we played and were as delighted as we by the joy that music brings.



## Presbyterian Coffee Project—Dave Hicks



We have decided on a strategy to hold the coffee sale on the second Sunday of each month, between the two services and after the late service; the table will be outside the Friendship Room. The coffee is delicious, comes in both regular & decaf and is competitively priced. The proceeds of the sale benefit the coffee growers of Equador & Columbia by giving them a reasonably priced market for their product so that they can earn a living wage for their efforts. BHCC benefits financially as well. The small amount that the church receives per bag helps to defray the cost of the fellowship time coffee. This is a great project for all of us to be involved with and support, so look for Steve, Debbie, me or another member or the Mission Committee the

## Green Grocers For Miryam's—Nina Helbling

Tom and Debby Hayes are now picking up unsold produce at the Giant Eagle at Village Square the first Sunday of each month and delivering it to Miryam's House. Tom and Debby join Dave and Nancy Green, Susan and Dave Hicks, Jackie and Ben Holdsworth, and Jason and Kiri Rising in this valuable service. The women of Miryam's House are very grateful to all these faithful volunteers from Bower Hill Church for providing additional fresh fruit and vegetables for their meals.



## Wallace Memorial Food Pantry

The food pantry appreciates your donations during the month of JANUARY. **Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in January (January 8th).** Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated! —Jason Rising



# Church News

## Bower Hill Online

The Evangelism and Membership committee has taken over the updating of the entire website. This will allow us to add more functionality and make updates in a timely manner. Our first changes were to take information in the Appendix and move it to the main website. The changes for the menu items are summarized below:



Menu Item Name	Sub-Menu Item Name	Description of Contents
Home		Besides the Sunday Services, we will list Special Services such as the Healing and Wholeness Services, Christmas Services, etc. A link to the Visitors guide is on this page
About Us	Visitor Guide	Information geared for potential members
Ministries	Spiritual Growth Mission and Outreach Session Deacons Music Fellowship Worship Community Outreach	Contains information similar to that in the Opportunities to Believe, Belong and Become Booklet. Includes details about ministries and list of members of committees.
News/Events	Newsletters	Monthly newsletters In pdf format. These are now in a format easier to read and print out.
God Sightings		Future – Information about this section will appear in future newsletters.
Youth		Youth forms in pdf format such as Permission form, Authorization for Medical Treatment form

We need your suggestions! What changes to existing information would you like to see on the website? What new information would you like to see on the website? What information would be useful for potential members? Please check the current website at [www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com) and email Glenn Child at [gstchild@adelphia.net](mailto:gstchild@adelphia.net) with your ideas for improvements.

## A Time to Join

On Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room, the pastors will offer a program for people who would like to join the church. The program will include a brief history of the Christian Faith, a very brief survey of the major doctrines of the Faith, an overview of what it means to be a member of a Community of Faith and lunch. We will conclude at 2:30 p.m.

Bower Hill Community Church is a challenging and wonderful place to respond to God's graciousness towards you. (By the end of the two hours you will understand what the words, God's graciousness, mean.) Please prayerfully consider joining!

Please R.S.V.P. to Glenn Child care of the church office if you will attend. The phone number at the church office is: 412-561-4114. —In His Grace, Leonard



# Church News

## Greeters

**January 1**—Robert & Doris Olinger,  
Jack & Luanne Pattison, Curt &  
Kathy Philson

**January 8**—The Richardson Family,  
Dick Rothrock,  
Jason & Kiri Rising

**January 15**—Ed & Betty Ruh, Margie Sewall, Julia Snead

**January 22**—Ivan & Kohar Shnorhokian, Carol Swed,  
Ginny Starr

**January 29**—George & Joann Vosburgh, Cindy Waller,  
Ral & Dorothy Warnock

## Coffee Hour

**January 1**—Lynne Wohleber

**January 8**—Kirsten Bruder & Kurt Kerner

**January 15**—Dick and Carolyn Westerhoff

**January 22**—Bob and Joan Bridges

**January 29**—Dave and Susan Hicks



## Communion Servers for February

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, February 5th, 2006**. If you are not able to attend church on February 5th, please arrange for a substitute.

Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder

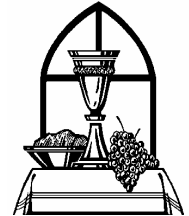
Chan Ketchum

Graham & Carol Knox

Jane Kohman

Chuck & Mary Laufer

**Choir:** Gordon Mitchell,  
Phyllis Yohe



## Kid's Own Worship

**January 1**—Nancy Criswell

**January 8**—Beth Gardner

**January 15**—Donna Williams

**January 22**—Michelle Patrick

**January 29**—Diane Leeson



## Youth News—Mike Tidd

### **Hoagie Sale to benefit Sr. High Mission Trip**

The youth will be selling Italian and Turkey hoagies as a fundraiser for the summer Mission trip to Racine, Wisconsin. Hoagies are \$6.00 and can be ordered with the youth or youth leaders. Hoagies will be delivered on January the 8<sup>th</sup> following De-Decking the Halls.

### **“Gathering” for Worship**

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the youth (and anyone else who is interested) will be meeting at the church at 6 PM to travel to Cranberry Twp. for a contemporary style worship sponsored by the Pittsburgh Walk to Emmaus Community at the Dutihl Church. Please let Mike Tidd know by the 11<sup>th</sup> if you would like to go and could help in the transportation.

### **Any Middle School Night Owls**

You and your friends are invited to an Over-Night at the church from Friday at 7 PM (January 20<sup>th</sup>) until Saturday at 9 AM (January 21<sup>st</sup>). We need to have a minimum of 12 youth in order to have a great time. In order to comply with Safe Sanctuaries policies, we need two women and one man to serve as chaperones. Registration for this event will go through Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to tell your friends; the more the merrier.

### **Calling All Youth Parents!**

We will be having a Parent Meeting on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in the church lounge to discuss the youth program to include the schedule of events, youth and parent involvement, and the summer mission trip. Please come as this is a very important meeting.



# Church News

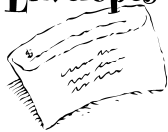
## De-Decking the Halls

De-Decking the Halls! Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the 10:15 am service. Please plan to stay after the second worship service to help put the Christmas decorations away. We will gather at 11:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for lunch. The Sr. Highs will be selling hoagies as a fund-raising event. Chips and beverages will be available, too. Afterwards, we'll take everything down. Many hands will make the job go quickly and it's an opportunity for fellowship. Comfortable, casual clothing is encouraged!



De-Decking Party

## Offering Envelopes



## Offering Envelopes

The 2006 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Narthex through January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to pick up your envelopes they will be mailed to you after January 7<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot pick up them up and do not receive them by the middle of January, please call Dianne Scott in the office at 412-561-4114.

## Surfing the Edge

Over the course of 2006, we as a congregation will have an unprecedented opportunity to shape the future path of our church's place in the community. As some of you may recall an extensive survey was conducted during 2005. This survey asked detailed questions of the congregation, leadership and staff to determine our collective perceptions of the church's role in each of our lives and the community in general. The survey was the initial step in the Surfing the Edge program. This program is based on a belief that each member of the congregation has a responsibility to God and the church to be an active participant in the church's overall mission and that mission is identified through collective discussions across the congregation.



To that end, your session has spent a significant amount of time reviewing the survey and discussing the results. As we move to the next step, we are enlisting your help. Over the next six months, we will be asking for you to participate in small focus groups to discuss the survey results and identify Bower Hill's mission. The results of these meetings will shape the church's role in each of our lives and that of the community for years to come. It is the sincere hope of Session that we will be able to generate a high level of participation from all corners of our membership. This is your opportunity to have your voice heard. So please "stay tuned" during January, as more information regarding the program and the establishment of the focus groups will be distributed. Thank you, The Session of Bower Hill Community Church

## Adult Education For January

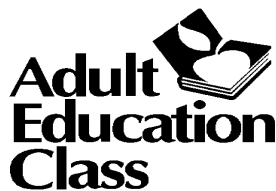
January 1—New Year's Day—No Class

January 8—The Hidden Faces of Poverty—Rev. Sharon Washington

January 15—The Hidden Faces of Poverty—Rev. Sharon Washington

January 22—The Hidden Faces of Poverty—Rev. Sharon Washington

January 29—Iraq, Schuyler Foerster—Chairman of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh, Col. Forster Ret. Phd., Professor of Point Park College



## Bookworms

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

**January 17th**—1776, by David McCullough, at the home of Betsy Hohlfelder.

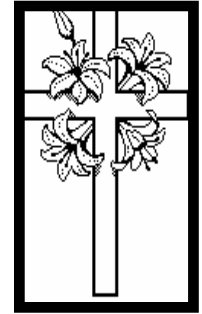
**February 21**—*Sick Puppy*, by Carl Hiaasen, TBA.



# Care List

## **MEMBERS AT HOME:**

Lois Conley, 1150 Bower Hill Rd, 1116A, Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085  
Pete Fenton, 708 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
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  
Ruth Fenton, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
Bob Gavett, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd., #6423, Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
Pat Metheny, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 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*

da@bhccml.com

*Jim Kline, Custodian*

*Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary*

di@bhccml.com

*Rev Laurie Sponaugle, Co-Pastor*

la@bhccml.com

*Rev Leonard Sponaugle, Co-Pastor*

le@bhccml.com

*Yara Toury-Vanzin, Administrative Secretary*

ya@bhccml.com

*Mike Tidd, Director of Youth Ministries*

mi@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday

8:45 am - 4:45 pm

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