

Bower Hill Community Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

MARCH 2006



Stones and Hills

When was it that we saw you...thirsty? Matthew 25:37

Have you ever been thirsty? I mean really thirsty? I'm not talking about the, "Gee it's been a little while since I had a drink kind of thirsty; but hours, maybe even days of not having enough to drink, thirsty. I know I never have. I carry around water bottles and soda bottles and I always bring juice boxes for my kids, just in case. Being thirsty is just not something that enters into my every day or my any day, until now. Now, I can't seem to get away from the idea of being thirsty. Both the book, *Ending Hunger Now: A Challenge to Persons of Faith*, by George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald E. Messer and the One Great Hour of Sharing offering information have challenged me to consider the thirsty. Included with the One Great Hour of Sharing information was this African proverb: "The stone in the water knows nothing of the hill that lies parched in the sun."

I also came across these staggering statistics:

- One of every six people in the world lacks access to safe drinking water.
- One toilet flush in the United States uses as much water as the average person in a developing country uses to drink, wash, cook, and clean for a whole day.

Looking at the statistics is overwhelming. What can we do? What difference can we make? It is certainly easier and more comfortable to hide from or ignore the problem. Since we, like the stone in the water, know nothing of the hill that lies parched in the sun. As tempting as it might be, as people of faith, we know that we cannot do that. We must pay attention to the needs of the world, by seeing those who are thirsty and giving them something to drink. On March 1st, the season of Lent begins. For me Lent has always been a time when I am most drawn to God and most in touch with the needs of others.

I invite you to join me spending some time considering the thirsty and our call to reach out and give them something to drink. You will find the One Great Hour of Sharing Calendar in this newsletter with a chance to think about the needs of the world each day in March. I encourage you to use this calendar with your family and to make this season of Lent one in which you intentionally center yourself in God and consider God's call to reach out to the world. Our Wednesday night Lenten series will include both worship and education this year and will center on the call to respond to the thirsty. Look for more information in the newsletter. On Sunday March 5th you will be invited to take action to inspire decision makers to do more to feed more people by writing letters as we as a church join together for an Offering of Letters.

In some traditions, Lent is a time of giving something up. As we consider the thirsty of the world, perhaps we will also consider drinking mostly tap water during Lent and setting aside the money we would normally spend on coffee, soft drinks, bottled water or whatever else we drink to place it in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering this year. One Great Hour of Sharing claims that "It's Remarkable What Your Gift Will Do!" Did you know that it only takes \$200 to provide a water sanitation system for a family in Central America and \$1,000 can help a community in West Africa build a large-diameter shallow well? It's remarkable that it takes so little to make such a big difference. The challenge is clear! We must know more about the hill that lies parched in the sun! Let us spend some time considering the hills and let us make a remarkable difference with this year's offering and with our personal devotion.

Rev. Laurie

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On A Mission

The Presbyterian Coffee Project: “Good Coffee and Tea for a Good Cause”

Focus on Café Salvador—Steve Boisvert



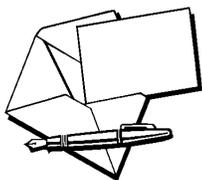
For those who have been enjoying Café Salvador this year (and for those who have yet to experience this wonderful brew) we thought you'd like to know something about the people whose lives you touch each time you purchase a bag (or two or more!).

APECAFE, Asociación de Pequeños Productores de Café de El Salvador (The Association of Small Coffee Producers of El Salvador) is an organization that represents 11 coffee cooperatives located in different regions of El Salvador. APECAFE was founded in 1997 with the goal of uniting the cooperatives' 539 small-scale coffee farmers to produce and export their coffee to the international market. APECAFE works with the cooperatives to resolve other problems facing their communities, such as the task of reconstruction following the series of earthquakes in 2001 that destroyed much of the housing and infrastructure of the coops. In addition to earthquake relief and housing reconstruction, Fair Trade premiums have helped improve the school infrastructure, hire additional teachers, and purchase school supplies. Today, the cooperative has been able to expand the school from 1st and 2nd grades up to 7th grade. Equal Exchange purchases beans for Café Salvador directly from APECAFE to ensure that farmers receive a fair price for their labors. You can purchase Café Salvador regular coffee, Columbian decaf, and now English Breakfast and Green teas the second Sunday of each month in the Friendship Lounge between services and after the second service. Coffee is \$7.00 for a 12 ounce bag. Tea is \$3.00 for a 25 bag box.

"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."- José Luis Castillo Vásquez, Las Colinas



Offering of Letters: One Spirit, One Will, Zero Poverty—Truman Kohman



The Mission & Outreach Committee is arranging an Offering of Letters in March on the theme “One Spirit, One Will, Zero Poverty,” this year’s Bread for the World Project. Bread for the World is calling for a \$5 billion increase in foreign assistance programs for health, fighting poverty, fighting poverty, fighting disease, and education. Our offering of letters to our senators will urge Congress to provide this amount in the 2007 budget. Detailed information and sample letters will be provided on Sunday, March 5th. We are asked to write letters at home and bring them to the March 12th service for dedication and mailing. For those unable to do this, we will provide materials for writing letters on March 12th. On March 12th, we will also provide an opportunity to join the ONE Campaign, which builds public will for greater citizen involvement in fighting global poverty.

One Great Hour of Sharing

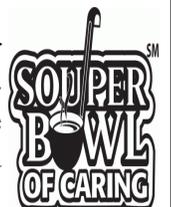


One Great Hour of Sharing

In April we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This offering is began more than 55 years ago in response to the devastation of World War II. The offering is given to three different programs of the Presbyterian Church (USA): Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self-Development of People. The PC (USA) offering received between \$9-11 million for at least the last 20 years. Look for more information and ideas of how to participate in this special offering in the newsletter.

Souper Bowl Report

Thanks to all who gave to the Souper Bowl offering. We collected \$304 and over 60 cans of food. So far, the total collected by all who participated in this offering is \$3,951,645.33!



On A Mission

Miryam's House—Lee Ferrero



Kitchen Help
Miryam's House

Loaves and Fishes, the Miryam's House cooking group, continues to meet on the fourth Monday of each month to prepare food for the ladies at this downtown shelter. For those of you not familiar with Miryam's, it opened in 1987 on Fifth Avenue, up from the Civic Arena, and provides services to 275-350 women each month. These services include counseling, case management, crisis intervention and meals for those who need them. The Bower Hill cooks provide four large casserole trays each month, enough for 100 servings.

Our congregation has been generous in making donations to the Miryam's fund and we appreciate that. We have, however, lost some of our cooks in the past few years, and occasionally are short handed. If you would be interested in helping us on the fourth Monday and would like more information, call Lee Ferrero at 412-279-7818.

Wallace Memorial Food Pantry—Jason Rising

The food pantry appreciates your donations. Canned meat and peanut butter are always needed. Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in March (March 12th). Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



Giant Eagle Gift Cards—Paul Frock

Not too long ago, the Men's Breakfast group decided to sell Giant Eagle and Shop and Save gift cards to our church members as a fundraiser for the church. After a few months, we found that Shop and Save cards were not moving very fast, so they were discontinued.

You will be happy to know that through your purchase of these cards, we have allowed Giant Eagle, and to a lesser extent, Shop and Save, to contribute \$4,100 to Bower Hill. For every \$50 or \$100 card you purchase, 5% helps to support our church. Thank you for your continued support!



Capital Campaign Contributions Showing Results—Nina Helbling

Bower Hill Community Church made significant contributions from the last Capital Campaign to projects in Haiti and on Mt. Washington, among others. Recent news from these projects indicates ongoing progress in meeting goals.

The Urban Mountain Gathering Place, located in the Presbyterian Church of Mt. Washington, rents its rooms for corporate meetings and workshops, wedding receptions, memorial services, holiday parties and meditation. Income from rentals is used to support the church's after-school tutoring program as well as other neighborhood projects. The program serves more than 100 children. According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Lynne Squilla, President of the Mt. Washington Community Development Corp. said, "It's (The Gathering Place) worth its weight in gold, especially considering the part it is taking in correcting some of the ills that the city can't cover. Once you get beyond Grandview Ave., we have a lot of issues".

The School of Nursing in Leogane, Haiti, is now training its second class of nursing students, so badly needed in this poorest of Western Hemisphere countries. Besides a grant to aid in equipping the new building, Bower Hill Church has provided scholarships to students. The average individual income in Haiti is less than \$400 per year. The operating cost of the school is about \$3000 per student per year so much out-

side help is needed. The School is part of the Episcopal University of Haiti and students are being educated to international standards of nursing and receive an academic degree upon completion. The curriculum plan consists of two terms for each of four years, equivalent to leading baccalaureate programs in the U.S. Because Haiti is such an impoverished country, ongoing financial help for operating costs as well as student support is needed.

Mission Giving



Church News

Youth Fundraisers—Christine Henney

HOAGIE SALE ON MARCH 19!

It's that time again.... the youth are selling hoagies to raise money for the summer worktrip. Italian or Turkey 12" hoagie for \$6/each. *Please place your order using the enclosed order form and return to church office no later than March 13.* Don't be disappointed! Place your order soon! These hoagies are yummy and the money goes to a good cause. THANK YOU!

Save the date!!

Spaghetti dinner on Sunday

April 23—Benefits youth worktrip.



Adults \$8, Children (10 and under) \$4, Family \$25

New Members

Join us in welcoming our New Members!

Karen and John Zoll usually attend our 10:15 service and can usually be seen with their 2 sons Jake and Jonah.

Chuck and Janice Shaw usually attend our 9:00 service and can usually be seen with their 2 daughters Marne and Natalie.

Jamie Sonnie usually attends our 9:00 service with her family.

Elaine and Pete Delmasso also attend our 9:00 service with the rest of their family which includes Chuck & Janice Shaw and Jamie Sonnie.

All of our new members will be welcomed during worship at the end of February or early in March.



Bower Hillers

Due to a schedule conflict, the Bower Hillers will not meet in March. Please stay tuned to upcoming bulletins and the April newsletter for future events.



Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Steve and Michelle Mangin and big brother Ryan as they celebrate the birth of Ruth Parker Mangin on Sunday January 29th.

A Thank You From Our Soldiers—From Jeanne Olsen

Fine American,

On behalf of my team here in Iraq, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you. Your patriotism and dedication to any and all of the deployed Soldiers, regardless of whether or not you know them says a lot about your character. It takes a special person to dedicate the time and effort, during their hectic daily schedules, to send messages and care packages to their fellow Americans in distant lands, yet you seem to do it so effortlessly, and for that we owe you a debt of gratitude.

With limited resources here, it's easy to spot the little things in life that we take for granted back home. Simple things like running water and indoor plumbing, a place to wash and dry clothes are almost nonexistent here. Every little piece of home that you pack with love into a box and mail to us puts a smile on our faces. There is a special place in Heaven for people like you.

I, and many of my comrades, are on our second tour to Iraq. As I recall, we did not receive "Any Soldier" mail on the previous deployment. This is a new thing to me, and I applaud the program. Unfortunately, there are some Soldiers that receive little to no mail, and this program allows us to spread the love of Americans to all the soldiers.

Keep up your tireless efforts back home and always remember, you are making a difference in our lives.

Thanks again,

SFC Scott R. Haarer and Team



Worship News

Coffee Hour

March 5—Woody & Barb Hughes
March 12—George & Eleanora Freas
March 19—The 4th and 5th Grade Sunday School Class
March 26—Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder



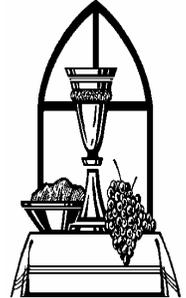
Greeters

March 5—Betty Ewing, Ruth Foltz, George & Eleanora Freas
March 12—Pete Fenton, Mary Good, Cynthia Gissin
March 19—Dave & Nancy Green, Jean Grabow, Woody & Barb Hughes
March 26—Christine Henney, Dave & Susan Hicks, Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder

Communion Servers for April

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, April 2nd, 2006**. If you are not able to attend church on April 2nd, please arrange for a substitute.

Betty Ewing
 Pete Fenton
 Luann McNickle
 Roberta Sarraf Moore
 Curt & Kathy Philson
 Cheryl Gross Richardson
 Richard Rothrock
Choir: Lee Ferrero and Lynn Wohleber



Preaching Schedule

Join us in worship as we explore the Lenten texts! Remember that Lent begins on March 1st and it is a time of anticipating the passion of Christ.

March 5	Rev. Laurie	Rev. Leonard
9:00 am	Family Service: Hope Acts 27:1-44	10:15 Hunger Sunday Mark 1:9-15
March 12	Rev. Laurie	Rev. Leonard
9:00 am	Mark 8:31-38 "Fear!"	10:15 am Mark 8:31-38
March 19	Rev. Laurie	Rev. Leonard
9:00 am	John 2:13-22 "Anger!"	10:15 am John 2:13-22
March 26	Rev. Laurie	Rev. Leonard
9:00 am	John 3:14-32 "Love!"	10:15 am John 3:14-32

Kid's Own Worship

March 5—Jake & Rhonda Magdsick
March 12—Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder
March 19—
 Sherri Kohler;
March 26—
 Linda Johnson



Services of Healing & Blessing

Join us for our Lenten service of Healing and Blessing on Wednesday March 8th and Wednesday April 5th at 7:15 pm. A Soup Supper will be served at 6:45 pm in the Friendship room.



Easter

Sunday April 16th is Easter Sunday. We will celebrate the Resurrection at both the 9:00 am Contemporary Service and at the 10:15 Traditional Service. The Awakening Breakfast will begin at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and it will continue until 10:30 am.



Youth News

Upcoming Events—Christine Henney

Sunday 3/19: morning

Hoagie sale

Another fundraiser for this summer's youth worktrip. Let's set our goal for 150 hoagies...we were close last time!
3/5 – take orders after worship services 3/12 – take orders after worship services

Sunday 4/23: evening

Spaghetti dinner

This is the big fundraiser for this summer's youth worktrip.

Just hold the date, we will have information shortly.

***Other events are being planned and will be communicated to youth directly.**



Education News

Faith In Action...4th and 5th Grade Sunday School—Cheryl Gross & Mary Beth Waine

The Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School is continuing its **Faith In Action** theme for the year and March is going to be a BIG month for us. The class has been working on polar fleece lap robes for residents of Asbury Heights. Lap robe construction includes measuring and cutting two pieces of fabric to size, cutting fringe on two ends, tying the fringe, and finishing by sewing-up the sides using a sewing machine. By March 5th, the children will have 9 lap robes to share with the congregation at the 9 and 10:15 services prior to delivering them to Asbury. The children have enjoyed the project and there is little doubt that a recipient will enjoy the warmth of a hand-made item.



Mark your calendar for the March 19th coffee hour! The Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School class will be baking and decorating the Friendship Room to welcome you. Spring is in the air!

Wednesday Night Lenten Series

You are invited to spend some time considering the thirsty of the world this Lent. Beginning Wednesday evening, March 8 and ending on Wednesday April 5, we will meet in the Friendship Room for a light soup supper at 6:45 pm. On March 8th and April 5th, we will move to the sanctuary at 7:15 pm for a Taize Service of Healing and Blessing. These services will include some time to contemplate the thirsty of the world and our call to make a difference. On Wednesday March 15, 22 and 29 we will begin a discussion of the issues of hunger and thirst in the world at 7:00 pm. Some information for the class will be drawn from the book, *Ending Hunger Now: A Challenge to Persons of Faith*, by George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald E. Messer. Please consider joining us for this challenging program.



Adult Education For March

March 5—Opening Our Eyes To Other Faiths:

“Muslims,” with Dr. Ahmed Abdelwahad, President of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

March 12—Opening Our Eyes To Other Faiths:

“Muslims,” with Dr. Ahmed Abdelwahad, President of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh

March 19—“God and the Gavel,” with Bill Difenderfer

March 26—“God and the Gavel,” with Bill Difenderfer

Bookworms

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

March 21st—*Night*, by Elie Wiesel, at the home of Nancy Green.

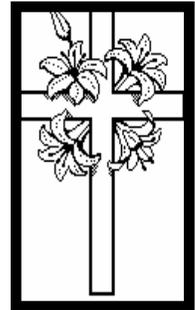
April 18th — *In Sunlight in a Beautiful Garden*, by Kathleen Cambor, at the home of Joan McAnulty.



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, 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
Theresa Child
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

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday

8:45 am - 4:45 pm

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