

Bower Hill Community Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

APRIL 2006

"See, I am making all things new." Rev. 21:5

The book of Revelation is definitely not my favorite book in the Bible, and much to my surprise, this month I find myself caught up in some of the words and images from this strange and confusing book. On second thought, perhaps it is not so surprising, when you think about Easter and Resurrection, which are after all connected to the notion of all things being made new. And yet, Easter is not the reason why I am thinking about things being made new.

Make no mistake, I love the resurrection stories of Easter, I look forward to remembering the Holy Week journey, as it is always a time when my faith is deepened. But this year, Easter is unusual. Usually, Easter marks the promise that life is about to settle down in the church as we ride out the end of the Christian Education year and look toward the summer worship schedule and vacations, which prevent us from doing too much in the summer months. Not so this year, there are too many new things that are starting to take shape! To some degree, I feel like the women at the tomb, with a tremendous message to share, because there is so much excitement building in me over the new things that are being planned.

First, as you already know, in the weeks before Easter, the Surfing the Edge meetings will begin. This is the start of a new thing for the church as we consider our past and begin to dream of our future. Second, plans are beginning to take shape for the Holy Land Adventure- Bethlehem Village, which is our Vacation Bible School curriculum for this summer. During the week of June 19th –June 23rd we will be transforming the church into the city of Bethlehem as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. This is an exciting and challenging new task that was taken on without hesitation by the VBS planning committee. Rather than going with what was familiar, they decided to step out and try this new thing! Be assured, that there will be opportunities to serve and get involved in this wonderful experience!

Finally, as you know, our Lenten study group has been focusing on the issues of hunger and poverty. Through the course of our worship and study, we have developed passion and purpose for hunger ministry. On Sunday April 23rd, at 11:45am there will be a meeting to start to develop some plans to present to Session to take this issue on in some very real and substantial ways! If you are interested in getting involved in the planning of some events, you are welcome to attend this meeting, as we will need everyone's help to rally around this cause to make these efforts successful.

Inspired by this passion to do something about hunger, a new plan is taking shape for the Senior High Work Trip, which we expect to happen the week of July 17th. Tom Hayes and I are developing a week of local hunger focused experiences that we hope will open the eyes of our youth to the needs in our community and what we can do about them. As the plan begins to take shape we expect to have 5 day trips and at least one overnight experience.

God is doing a lot of new things at Bower Hill! It is my hope that as we partner with one another and with God, we can be instrumental in helping to build a world where "[The people] will hunger no more, and thirst no more." Revelation 7:16

Rev. Laurie



**BEHOLD, I MAKE
ALL THINGS
NEW!**

Revelation 21:5

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Lent & Easter

Lenten Supper & Worship



LENTEN
SERVICE

For four weeks, the Wednesday evening Lenten worship and education series has been exploring the challenge of hunger and poverty around the world. On Wednesday, April 5th, we will end our series with our last supper together at 6:45 pm. At 7:15 pm, we will move to the sanctuary for a Tazie worship experience of commitment and challenge.



One Great Hour of Sharing

On Sunday April 2nd, children are encouraged to bring their One Great Hour of Sharing fish banks to worship during the family worship experience at 9:00am for a special dedication. As a congregation, we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Palm Sunday. Please be generous as you remember that this offering is equally distributed between, The Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and The Self-Development of People Program. The session set our goal for this year at \$2,000, let's see how much more we can give!

Maundy Thursday Service

Join us on Thursday April 13th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a special Maundy Thursday Service. We will worship God as we listen to the story of The Last Supper and we will conclude the service by celebrating Communion together.

Please plan to be a part of this special experience of remembrance



Community Good Friday Service

Join us for a Community Good Friday Service on Friday, April 14th, at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. The service begins at 12:00pm and lasts until 3:00pm. During this time, you will have the opportunity to hear many different preachers from the community reflect on the last words of Jesus. It is a wonderful event to experience! If you are not able to come for the entire service, then come when you can. Bower Hill will participate at approx 2:10—2:35 p.m.; the scripture passage is: John 19:30-37, "It is Finished!" Rev. Leonard will be preaching, and our choir will sing. Come and support your church family.



Community Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday

This year we will be doing something different on Easter Sunday. Instead of just one service at 10:15 am, we will keep our regular worship schedule with two services on Easter Morning. Both services will provide an opportunity to celebrate the resurrection, but they will do so in different ways. The 9:00am service will still be contemporary and the 10:15am service will still be traditional. We will be keeping with the tradition of the Awakening Breakfast, but this year it will begin at 9:30 am and continue until 10:30 am. This time change will provide an opportunity for worshipers from both services to attend and enjoy this wonderful breakfast.

Easter Schedule: Sunday, April 16th

9:00 am-9:45 am—Contemporary Worship Service
in the Sanctuary

9:30 am-10:30 am—Awakening Breakfast
in the Fellowship Hall

10:15 am-11:15 am—Traditional Worship Service
in the Sanctuary



Easter Services

Dan Merry to Visit

Don't miss the opportunity to see the Rev. Dan Merry on Sunday April 23rd. Dan will be leading our Adult Education class at 9:00 am and then he will be leading us in worship at the 10:15 am worship service. Dan will be sharing some wonderful stories about his year long trip to Malawi. This is an experience that should not be missed!



On A Mission

Clairton Book Drive Mission Opportunity

Many of the students in the Clairton school system are low income and very few have books to read at home. With summer approaching, our plan is to have a church-wide book drive so that the kids in Clairton will have books at home to read this summer. The youth groups at Bower Hill will be spearheading this effort, so look for more information from our kids. At the same time, the Mission Committee will be purchasing books at the Mt. Lebanon Library book drive, other local library book sales, and possibly from area discount retail outlets. The idea is to get the books to the Clairton students before school ends in early June so our deadline will be May 30th. As we all do spring cleaning, lets box up those gently used appropriate books and bring them to the church by May 30th, and make a difference in the lives of the folks in Clairton.



Hunger Action Meeting

On Sunday April 23rd, at 11:45, you are invited to join the members of the Lenten Bible Study group as we develop some plans to tackle the problem of world hunger. We've already started to develop some ideas and the plan is to further develop a major hunger event for all ages in September. Other ideas to be implemented earlier will also be developed.



SHIM Holocaust Observation



Sunday, May 7th, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. Beth El Congregation of the South Hills.

This year's guest is documentary filmmaker Pierre Sauvage, a child survivor of the Holocaust and a child of Holocaust survivors, who is an Emmy Award winning independent producer. He founded the Chambon Foundation, which is a non profit educational foundation committed to exploring and communicating the necessary and challenging lessons of hope intertwined with the Holocaust's unavoidable lessons of despair.

If you have any questions, please call Barbara Houston at 412-854-9120.

Lap Robes for Asbury

The Fourth and Fifth Grade Sunday School has continued its **Faith In Action** theme for the year in March and distributed polar fleece lap robes to the residents of Asbury Heights. The children have enjoyed the project and the following is a note sent in thank you for the items:



4th & 5th Grade Sunday School

Dear Abby, Brittany, Jamie, Jonah Logan, Morgan, William,

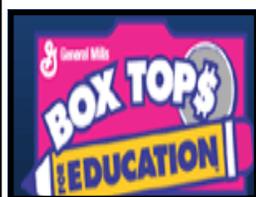
Thank you very much for the lap robes. The residents appreciate your kindness. You did a wonderful job!

Thank you again, **The Asbury Heights Activities Department**

Campbell Labels and Box Tops for Education

—Joan McAnulty

Thanks to all of you who have brought the many Campbell labels and Box Tops for Education to the church office this winter. We continue to collect them toward another van and school supplies for the Hopi Christian Mission in Arizona.



Please take any labels you now have to the marked envelope on the counter in the church office. The labels and box tops will be counted, packed and sent to the school later in May. Then we will continue to save labels and box tops for a shipment next year.

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 April (April 9th).



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

Church News



Surfing the Edge

Surfing the Edge meetings will begin on April 2nd. Please check the welcome board in the portico for your group room assignments and times. If you have any further questions or need to reschedule, please contact Glenn Child at 412-831-3429. Thank you.

BHCC Softball Team



Spring training for the upcoming season is about to begin and our first game is April 24th. We are looking for church members who are interested in playing on the team and who are looking for some fun, exercise and fellowship. This is a low-key church league, we play once each week (Tues-Thurs) at the field in Bridgeville near the end of McLaughlin Run Rd. It's a great time and we welcome all players, age 16 and older. If you are interested, please contact either Tom Hayes (412-221-6065) or Dave Hicks (412-833-7753).

Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers will meet Wednesday, April 26th at Molly Brannigans: 660 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon. This month's hosts are The Ruhs, who can be reached at: 412-561-6994.



Bower Hill Online—Glenn Child

A new Outreach section was added to our website. With the help of several church members, the Evangelism and Membership committee has compiled information about topics that affect many people's lives. Our goal is to make this information accessible to both church members and the surrounding community. To check out this new resource go to our web site www.bhccml.com and click on *Outreach*. Currently only the Parenting and Senior Citizen sections are complete.

The Parenting section includes tips, short articles, and a list of recommended books, as well as website links. Bi-weekly a new parenting tip will be posted to the web site. Web site users can also request that tips are automatically emailed to them.

The Senior Citizen section includes information on transportation, health care, personal growth, care giving, housing, and financial and legal issues. We provide local information where available.

The next section finished will be God Sightings. This will be a compilation of faith stories written by members of the church about how they have experienced God at work. We hope to have the first one posted in April. If you have a story to share, please email Glenn Child at outreach@bhccml.com or drop it off at the office.

Our last two sections will be Adult Spiritual and Youth Spiritual. These sections will consist of short messages to contemplate that will be updated weekly. The Youth Spiritual section will be based on the church youth curriculum. As we get the various sections functional, we will publicize to the community. We welcome your feedback for improving the site. If you know of any additional resources or have ideas for future sections, please let us know. Contact Glenn Child directly or send feedback via email to outreach@bhccml.com.

Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, April 23rd, 2006,

from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



Adults: \$8 Children: \$4

Families: \$25

Benefits the Senior High
Work Trip!

Free Public Lectures At Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

April 27, 2006—David Wilkinson, Lecturer in Theology and Science, University of Durham, UK, "Albright-Deering Lectures in Methodist Studies" 2 and 3:45 P.M.

April 28, 2006—Kathleen Norris, Author and Poet, J. Hubert Henderson Conference on Church and Ministry, "The Challenge of Incarnational Language" 4 and 7:30 P.M.

Worship News

Coffee Hour & Greeter Schedule

Coffee Hour

- April 2**—Christian Ed Committee/Pam Maniet (Chair)
April 9—Glenn & Sally Child
April 16—Easter/No Coffee Hour
April 23—Bill & Nancy Andrews
April 30—Youth Sunday (Youth & Youth Committee)



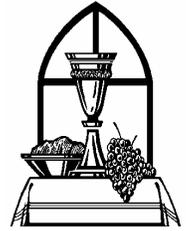
Greeters

- April 2**—Ben & Jackie Holdsworth, Lucille Heckman, Nina Helbling
April 9—Dick & Kate Junker, Moody Johnson, Zoe Kelly
April 16—Dottie Carter, Betty Ewing, Nina Helbling
April 23—Graham & Carol Knox, Truman & Jane Kohman, Dawn Kane
April 30—Don Lamb, Diane Leeson, Tim & Darena Lease

Communion Servers for May

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, May 8th, 2006**. If you are not able to attend church on May 8th, please arrange for a substitute.

- Jane Decker
 Ben & Jackie Holdsworth
 Phil & Linda Johnson
 Kirk & Mary Ketchum
 Betsy Orner



Choir: Jean Miewald, Joan Zakor

Kid's Own Worship

- April 2**—Jennifer Ramaley
April 9—Kathy Philson
April 16—No Kid's Own Worship
April 23—Nancy Criswell
April 30—Beth Gardner



Preaching Schedule

Sunday April 2nd

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 9:00 am | 10:15am |
| Family Worship: Conviction | Confirmation-John 12:20-33 |
| Rev. Laurie will preach | Rev. Leonard will preach |

Sunday April 9th— Palm Sunday

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9:00 am | 10:15am |
| Rev. Laurie will preach | Rev. Leonard will preach |
| Mark 11:1-11 | Mark 11:1-11 |

Sunday April 16th— Easter Sunday

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9:00 am | 10:15am |
| Rev. Laurie will preach | Rev. Leonard will preach |
| Mark 16:1-8 | Mark 16:1-8 |

Sunday April 23rd

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 9:00 am | 10:15am |
| Rev. Leonard-Hunger | Rev. Dan Merry —Malawi |

Sunday April 30th

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9:00 am | 10:15am |
| Rev. Laurie will preach | Youth will lead the service. |

Bell Festival

Come and enjoy some wonderful bell music on Sunday, April 30th, at 4:00 p.m. The BHCC Bell Choir will be joining many other choirs at the Marshall Middle School Gymnasium, North Allegheny School District in Wexford, PA.

The choir will be leaving immediately after worship, but you can come and experience the concert at 4pm. Look for more details in the bulletin.



Handbell Concert

Education & Youth News



Who Is God?

"Theology means thinking about God. Christians have done that through the centuries and created a number of models for thinking about God.

This can be fun, and it can be confusing. Which model is best? Is only one true? What does the Bible say?"

So begins a two-week study, "Who Is God?", which the Adult Sunday class will undertake April 2 and 9. It comes from *The Thoughtful Christian*, a new resource from the Westminster John Knox Press, the publishing house of the Presbyterian Church (USA). *The Thoughtful Christian* reminds us that Jesus called us to use our minds, as well as our hearts and souls, in the greatest commandment: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matt. 22:37, NRSV)

The Adult Ed. committee knows that BHCC is full of thoughtful Christians, and we hope that you will join us for the first two Sundays in April at 9:00 in the chapel. We will be asking for your feedback, as we are considering using more such studies in the future.

The subtitle of *The Thoughtful Christian* is "Faithful Living in a Complex World." What better way could there be to sum up the purpose of adult Christian education? Come join us and be part of the discussion!

—The Adult Education Committee

Adult Education For April

April 2—Who is God? *The Thoughtful Christian*

April 9—Who is God? *The Thoughtful Christian*

April 16—Easter Sunday—No Class

April 23—*My trip to Malawi*, Dan Merry

April 30—Mission; Lydia's Place, with Vicki Sirockman, Executive Director



Bookworms

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

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

May—TBA, at the home of Anne Mitchell.



Welcome New Members!

On Sunday April 2nd at 10:15 am, we will confirm 6 young men and women into membership in the church. As a part of their preparation for membership, they have completed numerous hours of confirmation class, read the Gospel of Luke, keep a faith journal, read the book, *Dinner with a Perfect Stranger*, watched 2 movies, *Luther* and *Jesus*, and prepared a Statement of Faith. Please join us in welcoming, Dylan Lease, Taylor Linaburg, Stephen Patrick, Ann Richardson, Evan Schardt, and Michael Waine.



Events



April 23rd—Prep in the morning/Dinner in the evening. This is our biggest fundraiser for the youth work trip. The entire congregation and community look forward to this event. Whether you are eligible to attend or not, we need your help! This is a joint activity with the Senior Highs.

April 29th—Prepare for Coffee Hour/Hang out. We will meet in the youth lounge and determine what needs to be done to prepare for coffee hour the next morning. A light snack will be provided. This is a joint activity with the Senior Highs.

April 30th—Host Coffee Hour. We will need some help setting up by 9:45 a.m., and then replenishing for second service around 11:15 a.m. This is a joint activity with the Senior Highs.

Summer Work Trip

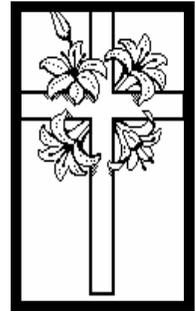
Plans are being made to create a new experience to explore the issue of hunger in our community. Tom Hayes and Rev. Laurie are developing a week long hunger experience with daily work trips and an overnight. The trips are being planned for the week of July 17th. Look for more information soon!



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
Louise Ketchum, 1300 Bower Hill Road, #1224, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Jane Kohman, 1300 Bower Hill Road, #1430, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
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:

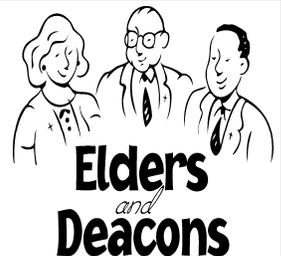
Bette Carson, Masonic Home, One Masonic Dr, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Raymond & Peggy Craig, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Catheryn Deemer, Broadmore Assisted Living #205, 3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
Ruth Fenton, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Bob Gavett, 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
Harry Retzer, 493 Castle Shannon Boulevard, #520, Pittsburgh, PA 15234
Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Grace Theilacker, Forbes Hospice, 115 S. Neville Street, #204, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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

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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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Our Web Page is: www.bhccml.com

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Bower Hill Community Church