

Bower Hill Community Church

Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

JUNE 2006

Foolishness

A few months ago, we came across a wonderful Franciscan Benediction from a publication by Sojourners which ended with these words:

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done!

On several occasions, we have used this benediction in worship as a reminder and a challenge to step forward and act with faith, even when things seem difficult and perhaps even impossible. This blessing should inspire us to ask ourselves, in our daily living and in our actions as a church, how much are we stepping forward in faith? Are we only taking on the things that we are sure will succeed? Or are we truly seeking God's guidance and leading when things seem too challenging or too big for us to handle? Stepping out on faith is hard. It requires trust. It puts us at the risk of failure. And no one wants to fail. But if we are always doing what is safe, then we have to ask ourselves if we are being faithful and trusting God?

As we write this cover, we are days away from the beginning of the food collection for the Fill the Truck Project to take a truck full of food to Mississippi to help the flood victims. Apprehension has begun to set in as we wonder if we will have enough food to fill the truck. We can't help but wonder a bit if it was foolish to take on a project of such magnitude. Will the project be a success? Like the rest of the Hunger Action Team, we are trying to remind ourselves that God is in this project.

We believe God is and God will continue to bless this project. We have already collected 13 boxes of food, and the collection week has not officially begun. We have already seen an amazing number of people come together to make this project come to life. We have already made a difference in the lives of everyone who has gotten involved as we have worked together. We have challenged ourselves to struggle with the issues of hunger and perhaps even more to struggle with the issues of faith. We have no doubt that we are making a difference to the people in need in Mississippi.

No matter how much food we have to load on the truck on June 4th, we have done something that others claim cannot be done, and we have done it together and we have done it with God's help! As we partner with God, and foolishly step forward to make a difference in the world, remember that it is not too late to get involved by asking others to donate food. Remember that God is and has blessed this mission. Remember that faith takes trust! As we work together these last weeks, let us marvel at the wonderful things God has done!

Rev. Leonard and Rev. Laurie Sponaugle



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Vacation Bible School

Bethlehem Village is Coming!

June 19-June 23

Volunteers Are Needed! What Talent can you share?



Tribe Leaders-needed every day. These are the folks that do the most relating to the kids. The job of the Tribe Leaders is to build excitement and get the kids to talk and engage. To volunteer see Lori Schofield.
Census Taker- needed every day. The census taker introduces kids to different Roman customs. A historian types with some scripting and drama. To volunteer see Rev. Laurie.
Village Playground Director-can be a different person each day, each day is a different simple game- slingshots, hopscotch, tug of war, leapfrog, chariot races. To volunteer see Rev. Laurie.
Drama Team Members-Drama is the heart of this program, dramatic people are needed to tell the story each day. To volunteer see Debby Hayes.

Shopkeeper-shops change every day! To volunteer see Dawn Kane or Pam Maniet.

Farmer's Market- introduce kids to new fruits

Coin Making Shopkeeper- introduce coins and make coins with kids (may be leather or wood)

Dye Shopkeeper-introduce to dyes and dye a pouch

Perfume Shopkeeper-introduce scents and make a scent bag with spices

Musical Instrument Shopkeeper-introduce music and make a shepherd's flute

Mosaic Shopkeeper-introduce mosaic tiles and help kids create a mosaic box

Stars are Needed!

This year we have a multitude of stars that need to shine before Bible School begins.

Check out the Star bulletin board outside Rev. Laurie's office for opportunities to shine!!

Each star lists a different item that is needed for Bible School.

If you are able to sponsor a star, make a donation to VBS, put your name on the star and hang it up to shine!



Some of the stars to sponsor are:

Gazebo Tents- 6 at \$80 each

Wooden Figures-\$192

Sign for Yard- \$20

Spices- \$15

Tribe Bandanas- \$28

Flute Craft-\$30

Treasure Boxes-\$120

Tribe Kits- \$24

Coin Pouch Craft-\$30

On A Mission

SHIM Back-to-School Event

While most of us are probably thinking about the approaching end to another school year, South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) and Bower Hill's Mission Committee are already planning for an exciting "Back-to-School" Event for the kids SHIM serves through its food pantry or school based programs. This year's event is scheduled to take place from 4:00-6:30 p.m. on Friday, August 11th.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with this program, SHIM provides new backpacks and school supplies to its kids. Bower Hill helps by arranging for carnival-type activities, a disc jockey and food...all of which help to make it a really fun event. New to this year's program is the participation of the South Hills Beauty Academy to provide free haircuts for all children who participate. SHIM is expecting to serve about 350 kids in 2006, which is about a 30% increase over last year.



School Supplies Needed

How can you help? We encourage you to **purchase and donate a backpack**, which we will take to SHIM for the Back-to-School event. Any type of backpack is fine (except for those on wheels). If you don't feel like shopping but would still like to help, **please give a donation, made payable to Bower Hill Community Church, and indicate SHIM in the memo line.** Monies collected will be given to SHIM for the purchase of backpacks or other school supplies of which they are in need. We ask that you bring your backpacks or donations to the church by June 30th. Finally, we will be looking for volunteers to help with the event in August. It is a very fun and worthwhile day, guaranteed to make you glad that you helped. If interested, please contact Betsy Hohlfelder at 412-341-1029.



Clairton Field Trip Report

—Dave Hicks



The field trip of Clairton Middle School 5th graders to the Regional Environmental Education center in Upper St. Clair was a big success, despite some rain. 56 students attended for the entire day on May 11th.

They hiked the many trails and learned about conservation, composting and pollution. They also saw lots of wildlife that they don't normally get the opportunity to see. The kids all indicated it was a great time and very worthwhile experience. Our congregation helped to make that possible.

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year we decided to be more intentional about talking about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The Session set a goal of \$2000. for this wonderful offering that supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Guess what? We exceeded our goal!! \$3657.75 was collected. Thank you for your generosity!!!



Wallace Memorial Food Pantry

—Jason Rising

The food pantry appreciates your donations. Wondering what to buy? Some of the most needed items are:

Cereal (high fiber, low sugar)
Tuna, Canned Salmon (packed in water)
Fruit, Vegetable Juice (100%, any size)
Canned Beans (kidney, black, navy)
Canned Vegetables
Peanut Butter (15 or 18 oz)

Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in June (June 11th). Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



Church News

Date	Time	Middle School and Senior High Activites
Sun 6/4	11:15 am - ?	Mission opportunity The people hit by Hurricane Katrina continue to struggle with everyday needs. Our church is sponsoring a food drive and driving a truck, loaded with food, to Mississippi. Please come and help load the truck! This is a chance to be part of something BIG! This opportunity is for both Middle School and Senior High youth.
Sun 6/4	4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Church Brewworks The Senior High youth group will travel to the Church Brewworks with architect Chuck Shaw and Janice, for a meal and discussion in a former church that has been converted to a restaurant/brewery. Meet at church. This event is for Senior High youth only.
Sat 6/17	3:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Horseback riding, dinner Come enjoy an afternoon out in the “wild.” We will ride for about 1 hour and then go for wings and pizza. What a great way to celebrate the end of school....this was great fun last year! \$20 for 1 hour ride \$5 for dinner This event is for only Middle School youth.



Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers will meet Wednesday, June 28th, at 12:00 p.m. at Nevillewood. This month's hosts are Paul & Mary Lou Frock, who can be reached at: 412-831-8167. There will also be a musical performance by Elliot Roth.

Bookworms

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

June—3 *Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson, at the home of Lee Ferrero.



Walk for Autism Research

—Joan McAnulty

The Seventh Annual Pittsburgh Walk for Autism Research will take place Saturday, June 3, 2006 at Heinz Field, 900 Art Rooney Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. The distance is three miles. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and the Walk will begin at 10:00 a.m. Parking is free in the lots adjoining Heinz Field. (Due to Heinz Field Security issues - No dogs permitted - Heinz Field reserves the right to turn anyone away that shows up with a dog on Walk Day - Also, no one will be permitted to leave the parking lot during the Walk. If you need to leave the venue before the Walk ends, then you must park offsite).

Again this year, there will be a Bower Hill Community Church (Presbyterian U.S.A.) team walking to help raise awareness of the need for research for Autistic Spectrum Disorders. We will raise funds for Autism Research. A surprising 1 in 166 children is diagnosed with autism. Money for research is vital to address this crisis. In this congregation, our pastors' two boys suffer from autism. There are also many others.

To join the Bower Hill Community Church walking team, contact Joan McAnulty at 412-833-845 or <jmcanulty@adelphia.net>

To donate to Autism Research, make your check payable to Bower Hill Community Church, with the memo of “Autism Research,” then place it in the collection plate or send it to the church office. The funds collected will then be given as one check to Autism Research.

Worship News

Summer Worship Schedule



Believe it or not, Summer is almost here! Last year, the session decided that the Summer Worship Schedule would be in effect from Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day Weekend. So, from May 28th until September 3rd, we will celebrate worship together with one service at 9:30 am. This year, the summer worship experience will be a blended service which will include some favorite praise songs from the first service and some favorite traditional hymns.

Favorite Hymn?



Do you have a favorite hymn? On June 11, July 9, July 30 and Aug. 13 we will begin worship by singing requested hymns. Look for an insert in the bulletin to make your request and to share a bit about why the hymn is important to you.

World Hunger



Hunger Sunday

On Sunday June 4th, the Hunger Action Team will be sharing some of the stories we heard about Hunger during our Lenten Study. Come to worship and hear what inspired us to take action!

This will be a day to celebrate and dedicate the food that has been collected for Mississippi and to commission our two truck drivers. World Hunger Day is scheduled for Tuesday June 6th, we encourage you to come to worship to begin thinking about how God is calling you to respond to hunger.

Hunger Offering

On June 4th, we will take up our first special offering for Hunger relief. Session has decided that on the first Sunday of each month, before communion is celebrated, we will take up a special offering to help those who are hungry. Some churches call this the 2cents a meal offering and place 2cents in a bowl at every meal for every member of the family; some bring in all their loose change, others just donate whatever they feel called to give. We hope you will support this offering!

Hunger Offering



Preaching Schedule

June 4	Hunger Sunday Hunger Action Team leads	Hunger Offering Communion
June 11	Rev. Laurie preaches "Heirs"	Romans 8:12-17 Hymn Sing
June 18	Rev. Leonard preaches "Believing that Big Things Are Possible"	Mark 4:26-34
June 25	Rev. Laurie preaches VBS Sunday "Announcing!"	



Summer Communion

As you may know, we celebrate communion differently at both our worship services. The first service celebrates communion by intinction, and the second celebrates by common method.

During the summer we will be honoring both these methods of celebrating communion. In June and August, we will celebrate communion by the traditional method, passing the bread and small cups down the pews. And in July and September, we will be celebrating by intinction, coming forward to break the bread and dip it in the cup.

Hunger Action Team



FILL THE TRUCK!

**Bower Hill Community Church members...
Help us fill the truck with food for victims of Hurricane Katrina!**

The Christus Victor Lutheran Disaster Response Center feeds over 1000 Katrina victims a week. Unfortunately, few donations are coming in and the coastal Mississippi town of Ocean Springs needs food now!!

Let us be their strength in this time of great need.

How can you help?

- 1) Begin collecting your own donations for the truck.
- 2) Take flyers to your neighbors and ask them to help.
- 3) Get creative in thinking about where you could ask for support. Some members are going to athletic clubs, recreation groups and book groups.
- 4) Volunteer to help in the collection room May 30-June 3
- 5) Volunteer to help pack boxes on June 3 from 1-5pm
- 6) Plan to stay after worship on June 4 to help load the truck
- 7) Sign up to participate in the prayer vigil June 5-10

Donations can be brought to the box outside the church office.

For more information Click on the truck on our web site: www.bhccml.com



Book Project

On June 4th, Hunger Sunday, the challenge will be issued to continue thinking about Hunger and what God is calling us to do about it. Copies of the book *Ending Hunger Now* will be available after worship. They have been provided by the Mission Committee, but donations of \$10 will be accepted for those who wish to contribute to the cost of the book. We hope you will consider being a part of this book study! We plan to discuss the book in early September, so there is plenty of time to read! If you miss worship on June 4th, you can pick up a copy of the book in the church office.

Katrina Food Drive Update

Members Jim McAnulty and John Zoll will be driving a 24 inch truck to the Gulf Coast area, filled with donated food. It's a big truck! We need a lot of food!!! So get the word out!!! We will be collecting the food from 3 to 7 pm, May 30th to June 2nd and 7 a.m. to noon on June 3rd, here at the church in the Christian Education Room (under the chapel); use the south parking lot. We will be packing boxes from 1p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 3rd and the truck will be loaded on June 4th, Hunger Awareness Day. We need non perishables or money to buy the item, South Hills Movers is donating all of the boxes. Call Elaine Dalmaso @ 412-334-1012, if you can help in any way.



Care List

MEMBERS AT HOME:

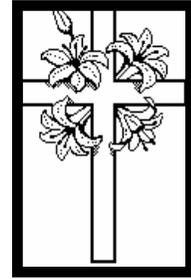
Lois Conley, 1150 Bower Hill Rd, 1116A, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
 Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085
 Kenn Fetterman, 2236 Kingridge Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 Jane Kohman, 1300 Bower Hill Road, #1430, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
 Barbara Love, 360 Jefferson Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15228
 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

Let us Pray for the loved ones of those who have died.

Louise Ketchum April 4th
Grace Theilacker April 18
Audrey Weber April 19th
Leo Gregory May 12th



Elders & Deacons

Administration & Personnel: Chairperson, Woody Hughes; Pat Jacobs

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson, Matt Maniet; Phil Johnson

Christian Education: Chairperson, Pam Maniet; Debby Hayes;

Community Building: Chairperson, TBA

Evangelism & Membership: Chairperson, Glenn Child; Jean Miewald

Finance & Stewardship: Chairperson, Kurt Kerner; Dick Junker

Mission: Chairperson, Dave Hicks; Diane Leeson; Lou Mazzini

Nominating & Presbytery: Chairperson, Curt Philson; Bill Cadwell

Music & Worship: Chairperson, Anne Mitchell; Margie Sewall

Youth Ministries: Chairperson, Christine Henney; Jason Rising

Deacons Class of 2007

Bob Bridges
 Nancy Green (Sanctuary Flowers)
 Theresa Child (Sanctuary Flowers)
 Dave Stewart*
 Cindy Waller (Special Flowers)

Deacons Class of 2008

Marian Brannan (Feed My Sheep)
 Betty Chidlow
 Barbara Hughes (Ministry at time of death)*
 Kathy Philson (Moderator)
 Carolyn Westerhoff*

Deacons Class of 2009

Ben Hohlfelder (Special Flowers)
 Mary Good (Secretary)
 Margaret Zabo* (Welcome Baby)
 Elaine Dalmaso*
 Phyllis Yohe*



COMEDY CORNER



OUR CHURCH STAFF

David Daugherty, Director of Music Ministries

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Jim Kline, Custodian

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary

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Rev Laurie Sponaugle, Co-Pastor

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Rev Leonard Sponaugle, Co-Pastor

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Yara Toury-Vanzin, Administrative Secretary

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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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