

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

JULY 2006

Seeing Jesus

Before Vacation Bible School began, I never really thought about seeing Jesus. I mean, I thought I would see him one day, but not now and definitely not as a baby. But this year at Vacation Bible School, we took up the challenge of creating a Bethlehem Village, during the time of the census, when Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be registered and more importantly to have the baby Jesus. It was a great challenge lovingly taken on and in spite of the uncooperative weather, we were able to create a wonderful week for the kids (check out page 5 for the travel log of each day's adventure).

For me, it was a week of questions and surprises. Like would this really work day to day? Surprise; it did. What would we do if it rained? Surprise; it did, and we adapted. Could Pam really make five different kinds of bread that the kids would eat? No surprise here, of course she did! Could Dawn adapt and develop enough crafts to work with the theme? No surprise there either, the crafts were wonderful! Would the kids like the donkey? Surprise, some did and others, not so much. Would the dramas work scattered through the day? Surprise, they did and actors stepped up at the last minute to fill in the holes! How could we include some old favorite songs with the Bethlehem theme? Surprise; we could use a time machine to set the stage to go to Bethlehem! Would the kids think the idea of the time machine was too stupid to play along? Surprise; they played along beautifully, some even said it was one of their favorite things about the week! The biggest question of all, how would the kids respond to the actors playing Mary and Jesus, would they feel some awe at thinking this infant was Jesus, or would reality be too much?

For me, the best surprise of all was the way the kids responded to Jesus. All week long they were anxiously waiting for his arrival, wondering if we really were going to see him. The highlight of the week happened on Thursday, when the kids saw Jesus for the first time. Some ran up right away to touch him, while others held back, a little too overwhelmed. Watching the kids reach out their hands to gently touch the baby made me a little weepy (and I'm not ashamed to admit it!). For a few moments, seeing the kids and their reactions to the baby, it almost felt like seeing Jesus. Surely the love shining on their faces was an awesome reflection of the joy the shepherds must have felt on seeing the baby Jesus.

I know this has been a week that I will never forget and I am very grateful to all who made this week a wonderful experience for all who participated; from the smallest child, to the oldest adult, it was a special week. There were over 40 volunteers who came together and to help make this week happen. On behalf of everyone who participated, thank you to all of you who supported this program financially or with your prayers. We couldn't have made it through the week without you.

Blessings,

Rev. Laurie



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hunger Project	2-4
Bethlehem Village	5
Church & Worship News	6
Care List Elders & Deacons	7

Hunger Project

Bower Hill Community Hunger Project for Ocean Springs, Mississippi—Jim McAnulty

Last March, at one of the Lenten Series Wednesday evening meetings, it was decided that Bower Hill Community Church should help the hungry. As a result, the Ocean Springs, Mississippi Hunger Project was developed.

This past Monday morning at 6:30, the J Team (John Zoll and his son, Jonah, and myself) left the church's parking lot driving a 26 foot Penske truck loaded with 298 boxes of non-perishable food, each box weighing on the average 55 lbs. Final destination - Christus Victor Lutheran Disaster Response Center, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to provide food for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

We decided to have the truck weighed since we were not permitted to exceed 26,000 lbs. We drove to Kiefer Coal and Supply Company in Bethel Park and they weighed the truck at 28,640 lbs. Their scale was small and it could only weigh the front of the truck first, and then the back of the truck. They told us to go to South Hills Movers in Bethel Park, which we did, and their scale was huge; according to the new scale, the truck weighed 28,760 lbs. Afterwards, we drove back to the church and removed 48 boxes of food to have the truck weigh within the legal limits. We finally got on the road by 9 AM and drove to Franklin, Tennessee, and spent the night at a motel.

On the road at 6:30 AM Tuesday, we drove only 4 miles south on I-65. The truck would not go over 40 miles an hour on a 70 mile per hour interstate. We stopped along the side of the road and called the emergency number for Penske. A service man from Penske by the name of Billy came and checked the truck but could not find anything wrong. He decided to have the truck towed to Penske, 21 miles north off I-65. John and Jonah drove with Billy, and I waited 1 1/2 hours for the tow truck which had to drive only 20 miles. Our Penske truck was towed north to Penske and exchanged for a new truck. We were told that either we had to load the boxes from the old truck to the new truck or hire a crew to do so. After talking to Penske Pennsylvania, a crew was hired to put the boxes of food in the new truck at the cost of Penske Pennsylvania. We were delayed over 6 1/2 hours, and got on the road again at 1:20 PM., then drove to the Lutheran Disaster Response Center's warehouse in Ocean Springs and arrived there at 10:10 PM. We were met by the house manager, John Fitzpatrick. He showed us around the warehouse and we were in bed by 11:30 PM. The truck was unloaded Wednesday from 8:40 to 9:20 AM. We left the warehouse at 10 AM and drove around Ocean Springs to see various disaster sites. We then drove north to Franklin, Kentucky to get a motel for the night but all of them were reserved, so we headed to the next town north, which was Bowling Green, Kentucky. All of them were reserved there also. Western Kentucky College had a graduation, and we had to drive 40 more miles north to Cave City for a motel. We checked into the motel at 9:15 PM, had dinner and then went to bed. By 6:30 AM Thursday, we were on the road again and headed home. Our trip totaled 2,133 miles round trip.

A Special Prayer

—by Jacob Zoll

Dear Father in Heaven,
I went on a really long journey this week.

Parts of it were fun and exciting, some of it was boring and tedious.

Which is kind of like life, I guess. And it was hard not to ask are we there yet?

But Dear Lord, I have to ask are we there yet?

I am very thankful we had the opportunity to help people in Mississippi. But 2100 miles later I think our journey has just begun.

We are not there yet, As long as there are hungry people and you have given us food to share

As long as there is loneliness and we can be comfort and a friend.

As long as there is war and we can choose peace.

Please Lord, We pray that you refresh our spirit and renew the fire in our hearts and make us tireless in your will that we never stop trying to get there.

Hunger Project

Comments About Christus Victor Lutheran Disaster

Center

—by John Zoll

June 10, 2006

When we arrived at the warehouse of the Center on Tuesday at 10:10 PM, we were greeted by John Fitzpatrick, House Manager, of the Center. John welcomed us with open arms and was very gracious in giving us a walking tour of the warehouse. John is a volunteer and has been at the Center since last November. He is a writer and is from the Poconos of Pennsylvania.

The warehouse can house 200 volunteers and has several bedrooms with bunk beds, which were built by the volunteers. A company donated very good mattresses for the beds, and they are very comfortable to sleep on. There were 90 volunteers there the night we arrived. Quiet time begins at 10 PM and we were quiet during the time John acquainted us with the place. We got to bed at 11:30 PM and, of course, slept on the bunk beds.

We were up at 5:30 AM on Wednesday, breakfast at 6 AM and short worship service at 7 AM. Then the volunteers received their assignments for the day to go out to various houses that needed repairs on the outside as well as the inside. Some volunteers stayed in the warehouse to repair and remodel. During Hurricane Katrina the roof was blown off the warehouse and much water ruined the inside. The warehouse is on one floor and is spacious with very large rooms to hold donated food, tools and anything else needed for the volunteers. The entire warehouse needs much work done. It is owned by the county and leased to the Lutherans. Volunteers have been to the warehouse from every state as well as foreign countries and as far away as Australia. The state and federal government charge the city of Ocean Springs for cleaning up after Hurricane Katrina, and the volunteers get credited with \$17.50 per hour of volunteer work which is a credit toward the charges by the state and government. We did not see any debris laying around the city, which has been taken away by the state or government. Metal has been recycled, wood used to repair houses and the rest delivered to a land fill.

Anheuser Busch donated 250,000 cases of water in 12 ounce cans. Krogers has donated cartons and cartons of peanut butter. This may last before the end of summer. Most food and drinks donated by various companies have expired but they are still good to eat and drink per John Fitzpatrick. People are lined up each day from 9 AM until 4 PM to get bags of food and anything else the Lutheran Center can provide. What ever is given to the people has been received by the Center from contributions such as what we delivered by truck.

The Center provided 12 people and with the three of us the truck was unloaded Wednesday morning which took only one half hour. Not only were our boxes of food placed in the warehouse, but they were immediately opened and then sorted to be used right away. Residents of Ocean Springs are still living in tents and cars. The City is a disaster and needs amounts of work beyond the imagination. The Lutherans have to be commended for their work for the residents of Ocean Springs. Our government also needs to help so that the city, residents, dwelling places, etc., can be restored to what they were before Hurricane Katrina.



What Happened to the Abundance of Food?—by Elaine Dalmaso

After all the attempts to have the food delivered to the Katrina victims, God has answered our prayers, again. While surfing the net for Katrina work teams, I found Christ United Methodist Church of Youngwood, PA is leaving Saturday for a one week mission to help with the Katrina destruction. Reverend D. Christopher Livermore agreed to take the food to their relief center in Moss Point, MS. He arrived Tuesday June 20, at our church, to pick-up the food. Youngwood's email address is www.christumcyoungwood/org.index.html click on News from the Mission Team for ongoing information starting Saturday. God is good, our community has helped to feed two communities in MS.

Hunger Project & More Mission

Our Experiences—Jim McNulty

What would you say if:

1. You could only drive your vehicle 40 miles an hour on a 70 mile per hour highway?
2. You were driving south on I-65 in Tennessee starting at mile marker 65 last Tuesday at 6:30 AM, and did not gain any miles in driving but lost 21 miles?
3. You waited 1 1/2 hours for a tow truck which was only 20 miles away?
4. You rode in the passenger seat of the tow truck while your vehicle was being towed, and was told by the driver that your seat belt did not work and the driver was not wearing a seat belt. You then looked out the window and saw a sign that said "Buckle Up or Pay Fine. Click It or Ticket"?
5. Were told by Penske Tennessee that John, Jonah and I had to take the 250 food boxes off the broken down truck and load them on the new truck. Each box weighing an average of 55 lbs?

After all was said and done, the J Team said thank you to God that no one was hurt, our mission was accomplished and we got home safely. We thank everyone for their prayers for us and the nice words of encouragement. and all of your concerns for us. We are thankful that God was with us and we were successful in being part of the hunger project to help those in need. Yes, the Church's Mission did get accomplished. We received written notes from the congregation to read along the way which we did. We are thankful for the notes and the words written on them. We know that many of you were sending and receiving emails about our trip. We thank those of you that were doing so. Thank you all for helping with the Hunger Project and being successful in accomplishing the mission



HUNGER MINISTRY, Ocean Springs, MS

Relief for Victims of Hurricane Katrina



Box Tops for Education

BoxTops 4 Education—Joan McNulty

Thanks to all the churches, women's groups, girl scout troops, and individuals who continue to send us Campbell's Labels, General Mills Boxtops for Education, and Tyson's Project A+ coupons. They really do add up and help our school. At last report, we have 560,631 label credits in our Campbell's account. For the current school year, we have redeemed \$3,329.50 in BoxTops4

Education. Please cut the labels so that the name of the company, Campbell's etc., and the front of the label, is in one piece. The labels and Box Tops 4 Education collected from Bower Hill Church members since June 2005 have arrived at the Hopi Mission School. They have sent us a thank you note: " THANK YOU for the labels / box tops you sent to our school. We appreciate your help in our collection. GOD BLESS YOU!"

Included in the note is their update as of May 2006 " We received a check for \$1300.00 for the Box Tops 4 Education we sent in during the fall. Our account balance for the Campbell's Labels is 555,000. We need 1,500,000 Labels for a van. Thank you for your help with our Collection."

Hunger Ministry Continues Don't Forget to Donate to the Food Pantry

--Jason Rising

The food pantry appreciates your donations of diapers, toilet paper and tissues for the month of July. Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in July, (July 9th).

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



Bethlehem Village

Bethlehem Village Travel Log: June 19, 2006

What an adventure we had today. Things began in the usual way, we sang some old favorite songs and we took up an offering. Then, we got to talking about something that we've always wanted to do...I said I always wanted to go to Bethlehem, and be there when Jesus was born. Well then the most amazing thing happened, I got in a time machine and we went back in time to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem, we went out into the marketplace where we visited the census taker and learned about the census; we visited a toy shop and began to make toys, we visited the village playground; the music school; the farmer's market and tried apricots and mandarin oranges; and we visited the dye shop where we made a coin purse. All day long we learned that we all need a Savior. At the end of the day we returned to our tribal homes a snack of cinnamon bread sticks which were made by the tribe of Issachar, then we got in the time machine and returned home.

Bethlehem Village Travel Log: Tuesday June 20, 2006

What an amazing day we had! We returned to Bethlehem through the Time Machine, with a brief stop in Hawaii! In the marketplace we visited some of the same places as yesterday; we also visited a mosaic shop and made cool boxes and we visited the coin shop to make our own coins for our money pouch. All day long we learned about how we need to Make Room For The Savior, and we actually saw Mary and Joseph! They came to Bethlehem to register for the census. They were looking for a place to stay, but we soon learned that they couldn't find one! Our snack was made by the Tribe of Benjamin and it was Focacia Bread with Cheese. There is the promise of more adventure tomorrow! I wonder if Mary and Joseph will find a place to stay!

Bethlehem Village Travel Log: Wednesday June 21, 2006

Wow, day 3 was even better than the first 2! We met the innkeeper and a midwife and we continued to wonder if we would see Jesus. Today at the marketplace we finished our nativities at the toy shop; we met a miller and made pretzels; we played a water relay game at the village playground and we tasted olives at the farmer's market. We spent the day talking about how Jesus is our Savior. Today we had biscuits made by the tribes of Judah and Joseph.

Bethlehem Village Travel Log: Thursday June 22, 2006

We saw the baby Jesus! Crazy shepherds told us that the angels had visited them and told them that Jesus was born in a stable and we went to see Jesus, but he wasn't there. Later we visited the barnyard and saw a real donkey! We got to pet her too! While we were visiting the barnyard, Mary, Joseph and Jesus all came to visit us and we got to touch the baby Jesus! It was so amazing! Today we talked about how we were to Tell About the Savior, just like the shepherds told us about the Savior. We got to try dates at the Farmer's Market, the Tribe of Asher made a delicious sweet bread with chocolate chips and we got to make shepherd's flutes!

Bethlehem Village Travel Log: Friday June 23, 2006

What an amazing week we had traveling through time to Bethlehem (and other places!), even if the rain kept us from spending time outside! On this, our final day, we encountered the Magi who were discussing what gift to bring to Jesus. We visited the Jewelry Shop and the Perfume Maker and we got to smell Frankincense and Myrrh, we also got to make B'samim bags to remind us of the sweetness of Sabbath and especially of this week so that we could anticipate coming back next year! At the Farmer's Market, we sampled Pomegranate juice and at the playground we got to play some of the games we had played this week, like Chariot Races and throwing a Slingshot. The tribe of Naphtali made us parmesan pull apart bread and we learned to give ourselves to the Savior. It was a great week!



Church & Worship News

Introducing The Bower Hillers—George Freas

Every now and then, questions arise, such as “Who are the Bower Hillers?” or “Who can belong to the Bower Hillers?” Eventually, the questions are referred to me, as group coordinator. Since I have only been involved for a few years, I had to do some research. I dug into the “Dead Sea Scrolls” of the Bower Hiller archives. I call them that because Bower Hiller records are a rather loose, disjointed collection of documents. Here is what I found: It all started in the 1980’s when some retired members began to meet for lunch and fellowship on the fourth Wednesday of the month. In those days, luncheons were served at the church, with members of the group taking turns coordinating meals. Gradually, occasional entertainment was added to meetings. For a while, they were known as the “Retired Luncheon Group.” The connotation attached to the word “retired” kept some folks from attending. An October 1990 Newsletter clipping outlined the simple requirements for membership: “Adults who enjoy good food, fun and Christian fellowship are welcome.” Shortly after, a contest was held to select a new name. Jean Grabow submitted the winning entry, and in December 1990, the name “Bower Hillers” was officially adopted.

Since then, the luncheon format has undergone some changes. We still gather on the fourth Wednesday of the month, but now we meet at local restaurants, selected by volunteer coordinators. The size of the group has ebbed and flowed. Today, our average luncheon attendance is 25 to 30 people. Annual dues of \$5.00 per person help defray any operating expenses. We are always looking for new members. If you think you might be interested, please give me a call and we will be happy to welcome you. George Freas: 412-279-5866

Youth News: Upcoming event—7/17 week - Sr. High Mission work. Whitewater rafting at Ohiopyle -- details will be announced when known.

Bookworms

Please join us for an interesting evening; new faces are always welcome! The Bookworms will meet July 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Betsy Prine. Title: *Daniel Isn't Talking*, by Marti Leimbach.



To The Bell Choir:

Dear Bells and David,

It was really wonderful to see so many familiar and loved faces (and hands) behind the Bower Hill Bells. I enjoyed seeing and hearing you, and I know the folks here at Calvert are very appreciative.

Please keep us in your prayers as we move into the future.

Blessings, Beverly James

Thank You!

Preaching Schedule

July 2	Rev. Dr. Jim Mead, guest preacher (Pastors at Continuing Education Event in Wash. D.C.)
July 9	Rev. Leonard Sponaugle Mark 6:1-13
July 16	Rev. Laurie Sponaugle Mark 6:14-29
July 23	Youth of the Work Trip
July 30	Rev. Leonard Sponaugle John 6:1-21



Summer Communion

Reminder: During the summer we will be alternating the method that we use to celebrate communion. In July we will celebrate by intinction, coming forward to break the bread and dip it in the cup. In August, we will celebrate communion by the traditional method, passing the bread and small cups down the pews. And in September, we will again celebrate by intinction.



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

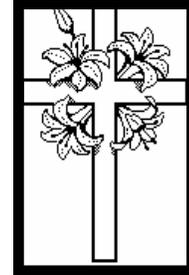
MEMBERS IN CARING FACILITIES:

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

Celebrating the Gift of New Life!

We welcome—

Kendra Lee Gibbons: March 30, 2006
Allison Faith Bruder: May 23, 2006



Elders & Deacons

Administration & Personnel: Chairperson, Woody Hughes; Pat Jacobs

Buildings & Grounds: Chairperson, Matt Maniet.; Phil Johnson

Christian Education: Chairperson, Pam Maniet; Debby Hayes; **Adult Education Subcommittee:** Nina Helbling, Dan Zabo

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

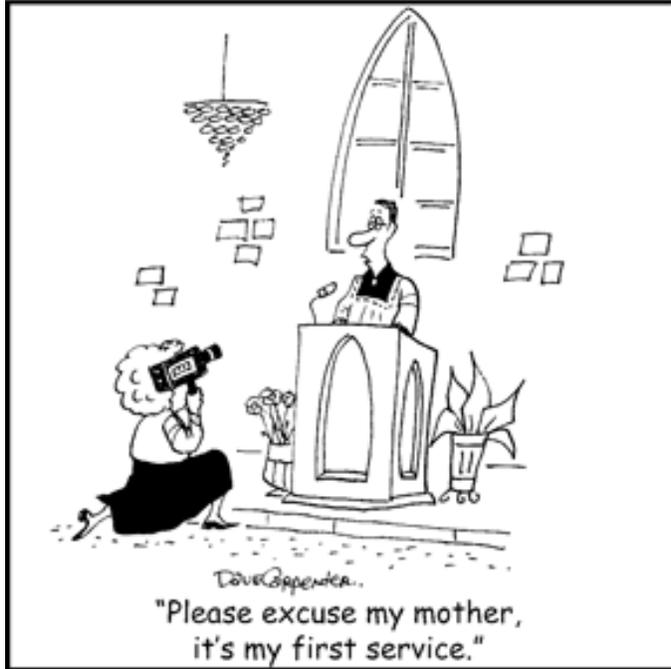
Marian Brannan (Feed My Sheep)
Betty Chidlow
Barbara Hughes (Ministry at time of death)*
Kathy Philson (Moderator)
Carolyn Westerhoff*

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

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

Office email: office@bhccml.com

Our Web Page is: www.bhccml.com

Pittsburgh, PA

Permit No. 2335

PAID

U.S. POSTAGE

Non-Profit Org.

Bower Hill Community Church
70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15243