

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

SEPTEMBER 2006

I didn't march at Selma

One of the first bits of information that was shared with Leonard and me when we came to Bower Hill was that its founding pastor, the Rev. Bill Barker, had marched at Selma. I have always been impressed by this act of faith and courage. I was not able to march at Selma, which is something I regret. Of course, you may realize that there is a very good reason why I did not march with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the other marchers at Selma. I was not born yet. Since I chose not to waste a lot of time on that regret, which I can do nothing about, I instead like to wonder about the event. I imagine that if I had been alive then I would have chosen to go and march, and yet I know that there would have been many excuses for why I may not have gone. All this wondering was made more profound this summer as I did in fact participate in my first march in Washington D.C. in July. Leonard and I went to the Sojourner's conference to learn more about what Sojourners and the Call to Renewal, (which are both faith based organizations) are doing about poverty.

It was a tremendous experience to see Christians of all denominations come together to learn about and take action to help end poverty. For a long time, I have been interested in doing something about poverty, (I believe I wrote a paper about hunger in Middle School), but I have always felt that there was not much I could do. With the work of the Hunger Action Team, this summer's Youth Mission Trip, and my trip to Washington D.C., I have begun to see that there is a lot I can do. In addition to these experiences, I found a great deal of hope in the book we read, *Ending Hunger Now*. I have come to believe that it is crucial for all of us to dwell on the issue of poverty and to continue to wonder what God is calling all of us to do. This dwelling keeps me focused and prevents me from getting lazy or being overcome by doubt, as I truly believe that God is constantly calling me and you to do something.

So, no, I didn't march at Selma. But I was brave enough to take march with the Sojourners and the Call to Renewal folks against poverty and I am beginning to believe that I am brave enough to keep working with God against these issues! Our congregation showed this same bravery when they took on the Fill the Truck challenge and they are showing the same bravery in hosting the Hunger Action Event. Whether God is calling you to get involved in this or in some other act of bravery, I hope we can all be bold enough to believe and hope that poverty will soon be history!



**FEED THE
HUNGRY**

Rev. Laurie

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Kick-Off & Education News



**LOOKING
TOWARD
FALL**

Kick-Off Sunday

Kick-Off Sunday will be held on September 10th! We will return to our fall schedule with the Contemporary Service at 9:00 am (music will be planned and led by Elliot Roth) and the Traditional Service will be held at 10:15 am (music will be led by Tom Flynn and the Chancel Choir).

Join us for Breakfast at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall! And don't forget that Sunday School Classes will begin on September 17th!

Opportunity to Serve

The Community Building committee is charged with building community through fellowship activities. It is a much needed committee here at Bower Hill and it is in need of volunteers and leadership. Do you love spending time with people and planning events? Then maybe God is calling you to this important ministry. Last year Community Building hosted church potlucks, bowling events and a trip to see the Pirates. They also make arrangements for Coffee Hour hosts, which is why we are struggling to have coffee hour! If you feel a call to lead or serve on this committee, please let one of the pastors know!

Adult Education For September

Sunday Morning:

September 17—*The Bible, the Hungry, and Bower Hill Community Church*—Steve Boisvert
What does the Bible tell us about the Hungry? Where should it lead BHCC?
On September 17 the Adult Education class will explore what the Bible has said about the Hungry and what BHCC's response should be. The Hunger Action Task force, formed as a result of a Bible study, has already begun addressing how BHCC can address the issue. We hope that this class will provide some background and understanding of what God would have us do to better serve Him through others. To follow this class, on September 24 we will have one of the church-wide discussions of the book *Ending Hunger Now*.



September 24— Discussion of the book *Ending Hunger Now*, by George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald Messer.

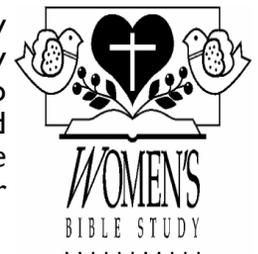
Other Opportunities:

September 19 at 10 am (Tuesday) & September 20 at 7:00 pm (Wednesday) join us for a discussion of the book *Ending Hunger Now*, by George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald Messer. Sign up for either class on the clipboard in the Narthex.

Koinonia Kick-Off—Betsy Hohlfelder

Koinonia is the name of the Bower Hill Women's Bible Study group. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 until 10:30 in the Lounge. Koinonia is a Greek word meaning "fellowship." While we come together to learn and to deepen our faith, equally important is the friendship and fellowship that we share with one another. We are always hoping to add new members to our group. A strong Biblical background is not required to join us...all you need is a desire to learn and to grow.

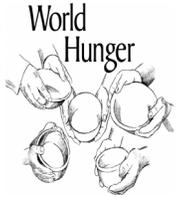
Koinonia will resume this fall on **September 13th**. We will be using a study written by Beth Moore titled *Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life*. By using the Book of Isaiah and other Scriptural references, Beth will encourage us to examine "ways in which we are held captive by anything that hinders the abundant and effective Spirit-filled life God planned for us." Friends who have completed *Breaking Free* and other Beth Moore studies cannot say enough good things about her and her work...we are hoping to be equally inspired and challenged as we begin this fall.



Mission News

Hunger Action Team Update

Plans are in the works for the next Hunger Action Team event! On Saturday October 14th, we will host a Hunger Action Day early in the afternoon to help raise awareness and funds for the hungry. Don Messer, the one of the author's of the book *Ending Hunger Now*, will kick-off the event! After his speech, there will be opportunities to take action at 10 different activity sites around the church! Some of the activity sites planned include: letter writing for Bread for the World, Bag lunch making for the Washington City Mission, a Global Gift Fair, a Coffee House and a walk-athon. If you are interested in getting involved in this event, contact Rev. Laurie at 412-561-4114, or join us for our next H.A.T meeting on Wednesday September 6th at 7:00 pm.



Malawi News—Dave Hicks



The Malawi Partnership Ministry project is coming up in late September and there is still time to volunteer to help transport the students to various activities and to be involved in many other ways. The Lambs are able to be a host family and we are grateful for their offer. More information will be forthcoming, so if you are interested in being involved, please contact either Laurie or Dave Hicks.

Food Pantry—Jason Rising

The food pantry appreciates your donations for the month of September. Donations will be collected on the second Sunday in September, (September 10th).

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



Free Braille Classes

"Oh, that book was such a good read. Thank you!" Our volunteer brailleists often hear words such as these from our blind readers. The Bower Hill Brailleists Foundation, located in Mt. Lebanon, is offering free classes, beginning in September, to anyone interested in learning literary braille. For more information or to register for classes, please call Priscilla Getty at 412-531-1883. This avocation is both challenging and rewarding!



SHIM Back to School—Betsy Hohlfelder

On a beautiful, cool summer day in August, over 100 children gathered at South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) for their annual Back to School event. It was a terrific day! The kids lined up excitedly to select a new backpack and then to fill it with notebooks, pencils, pens, folders and other needed school supplies. Once they were fully equipped, then the real fun began. Outside the kids were treated to a balloon artist, a caricaturist, a huge track on which to race remote control cars, crafts, face painting, mini golf and a DJ who encouraged the kids to try out a few dance steps. Rita's Italian Ice was served to all who attended. Inside, stylists were on hand from the South Hills Beauty Academy to provide free haircuts. Also hot dogs, drinks and chips were available to all.

Many thanks to the members of Bower Hill Community Church for helping to make the Back to School event so wonderful. Many people contributed. Our congregation delivered 24 backpacks and a check for over \$800 to purchase additional backpacks and school supplies. Money from our Mission Facilitation Fund provided the DJ, balloon artist, caricaturist, remote control cars, crafts, chips and Rita's. And a special thanks to the volunteers who came out to help the day of the event: Ben and Jackie Holdsworth, David and Susan Hicks, Diane Leeson, Jim and Joan McAnulty, Don and Bev Lamb, Donna (friend of Jackie Holdsworth) and Betsy Hohlfelder.



Worship News



Staff Changes!

Bower Hill Community Church, as you know, is losing a very special Director of Music Ministries. As we wish him success and Godspeed in his new endeavors, there is a need to continue our worship service with as little disruption as possible. We have been blessed to find an interim organist who has agreed to be with us until we are able to find a permanent replacement for David. Tom Flynn is retired Director of Music Ministries from Southminster Presbyterian Church. His credentials are awesome. Please welcome him when he begins his ministry with us on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10.

We are also pleased to welcome Elliot Roth in a new capacity at Bower Hill. Many of you know Elliot for his wonderful piano talent in the first service and his amazing voice in the second service. Elliot will continue to sing with the choir this year, but he will also be the Contemporary Music Leader of the first service. When talking with Elliot he shared that one of his passions is for composing music, so if there is not a song to fit a particular service, he just might compose one! So look for some new and different stuff in the Contemporary Service this year.

Preaching Plans

September 3 9:30 am Worship Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Rev. Leonard *Rules that Lead to Faith and Life*

On September 10, we will return to the fall schedule with two services at 9:00am (Rev. Laurie will be preaching) and 10:15am (Rev. Leonard will be preaching.)

September 10 Mark 7:24-37

The Learning Jesus

The Gospel for the Whole World

September 17

Mark 8:27-38

Knowing the Right Answer

A Terrible Surprise

September 24

Mark 9:30-37

Climbing the Ladder

Place & Power

Remembering Loved Ones With Sanctuary Flowers—Nancy Green

Donors are needed to provide weekly sanctuary flowers. Following the Sunday service, the flowers are delivered by deacons to members of the congregation in special need, or specified by the donor.

There are open dates in January, April, May and July. Cost of the flowers is \$30.00 and letters are sent to donors in advance to ensure that special requirements are honored. If interested, call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or Nancy Green at 412-531-2205.



Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

September 10—Bill & Nancy Andrews; Andrejs & Inese Baumhammers; Bob & Joan Bridges

September 17—Barbara Brown; Jim & Bev Burke; Dottie Carter

September 24—Glenn & Sally Child; Nancy Criswell; Anne Colquitt



Since there is presently no Community Building Committee, we are desperately in need of hosts for Coffee Hour! Please sign up on the clip board in the narthex.!

Communion Servers for October

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on **Sunday, October 1st**. If you are not able to serve communion, please arrange for a substitute.



Andy Baumhammers
Jim & Bev Burke
Cynthia Gissin
Richard & Kate Junker
Carolyn Phillippe
Barbara Brown

Choir: Jean Miewald and Margaret Zabo

Evangelism News

www.bhccml.com—Glenn Child

The church's web site is changing. The Evangelism and Membership Committee is continuing to make changes that will make the web site more useful for members and potential members. Below is a synopsis of recent changes and future changes.

Phase I – These changes have been completed.

Home Page - We have redesigned the home page to be more dynamic; that is, to have it change regularly to reflect current activities we want to highlight. Most of the activities will allow you to click on them and go right to the page with the information. The overview of Bower Hill that was on the left side of the old home page was moved under the menu item *About Us* and sub menu item *Overview*.

Library Catalog / Links – We have added the catalog of publications in the library and moved the links to other web sites. To get to this information, on the top level menu click on *Resources*.

For the library catalog, click sub menu item *Library*. On the library catalog search page, key in search criteria (leave blank for a listing of all publications) and click on search. All publications that meet the search criteria will be listed. You can click on each item to see the details on the publication.

For the web site links, click sub menu item *Links*. You can click on the links to go to these general use web sites, such as Pittsburgh Presbytery. Other sections of the web site will have links that are related to those sections. For example, the Outreach Senior Citizens section has many links to resources in Allegheny County.

Phase 2 – Members Only Section

Our next phase is to have a section of information of interest to members. Our current plans include things such as:

Lists of members who volunteered to greet, host coffee hour or serve communion.

Lists of members in the hospital, or those at home or to pray for.

A list of members who have died over the past several years.

A summary of session minutes.

If you have an item that needs added or corrected on the News/Events, Calendar or Newsletters, please email Glenn Child at gstchild@adelphia.net.



Help Spread the Word—Theresa Child

There are always great things going on in our church and I need your help to spread the word. If there is an event that you would like to see mentioned in any of the local newspapers or on a local cable channel contact me at (412) 429-9519 or www.treetoowon@yahoo.com.

Please keep in mind that newspapers and TV stations need several weeks lead time, so the sooner you can let me know the better. While there is no guarantee that our releases will be published, I promise it will not be for lack of trying.

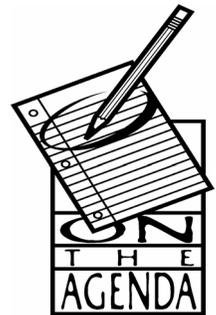


Church News

“You Heard It From The Clerk”—George Freas, Clerk of Session

To keep Bower Hill members informed, beginning this month, we are reporting brief highlights from our Session meetings. The following are some items from the July 24th meeting:

- Session accepted the resignation of David Daugherty, Director of Music Ministries, who accepted a position at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware.
- Session approved a new Job Description for the position of Youth Director. The Youth Ministries and Administration & Personnel Committees will begin to consider candidates for the position.
- Health care coverage for non-clergy employees will be placed with the Denomination’s Board of Pensions program beginning in September.
- The A&P Committee is working to design a staffing model for Bower Hill that will fit the needs of the church and the resources available.
- Evangelism & Membership is updating the website, continuing publicity on church projects/opportunities and working on a new member directory.
- Missions Committee is busy with the SHIM Back to School Event, Hearts Kits for Hurricane Victims and the Malawi Partnership Ministry.
- Buildings & Grounds is involved in a variety of maintenance projects, including: roof repairs, portico door repairs, sealing concrete steps and kitchen floor repairs.
- Session agreed to host the February 8th, 2007 Presbytery Meeting at Bower Hill.



Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers are back! This month’s meeting will take place at noon on September 27th at Roxy’s Café in South Hills Village Mall. The menu will be at your table. \$17.35 per person. Pastor Joe, from the Meadowlands Racetrack, will be the speaker. Please call Jean Grabow at 412-343-4396, for more information. Invitations will follow in the mail.



Bookworms

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



September 19th: *Digging to America*, by Ann Tyler; at the home of Margaret Zabo.

October 17th: *The House on McCully Street*, by Gladys Blews Wilson; at the home of LuAnn McNickle.

Youth News—Christine Henney

Tuesday 9/5 @ 7 pm - September Youth Committee meeting, planning for upcoming fall events.

Sunday 9/10 -- Kickoff Breakfast, the youth will have reserved tables. Our new Youth Director will join you for breakfast.

Sunday 9/17 evening -- Senior High event, details forthcoming.

The Youth Committee is pleased to inform you that we have hired a Youth Director! Please give a warm welcome to Brian Hayes! For those who attended the Washington City Mission, you already know Brian. A formal introduction will be sent out shortly. We are excited about the opportunity to work with Brian as we kickoff the 2006/2007 school year!



King’s Kids

Clappers



The Worship Committee is making plans for the King’s Kids Clappers to return on Wednesdays beginning on September 13th! This a group to help introduce kids to Handchimes. Children in 2nd-5th grade are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 412-561-4114.

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
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
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

A Note of Thanks

The family of Tess Stewart is profoundly grateful to the Bower Hill Church Family for the outpouring of love, concern and support that you extended to Tess and the Stewart Family during her last months of life and upon her passing. Every prayer, every card, every call, every visit and every meal was deeply appreciated. Thank you all!

Love,

**Linda, Pat, Carl, Andy Elsie,
Rachel and Sarah**

A New Baby!

We welcome Ethan Gregory Ridgeway, born on May 19th, 2006, to Gregory and Meagan Ridgeway. Ethan was 6lbs, 6oz., 19 1/2 inches. We congratulate the Ridgeway Family!

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



"He must be preaching about Noah today,
because he's wearing his floods."

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Tom Flynn, Interim Director of Music Ministries

to@bhccml.com

Brian Hayes, Director of Youth Ministries

br@bhccml.com

Jim Kline, Custodian

Elliot Roth, Contemporary Music Leader

jabinmusic@yahoo.com

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

permanent change. Thank you.

***Please note that the newsletter deadline will be changing to the 15th of every month. This will be a**

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