

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

OCTOBER 2006

Surfing the Edge

What would your answer be to this question: How do we provide experiences, activities and programs that will draw in the children of our community with special focus on Jefferson Elementary and Middle Schools? And what would your answer be to this question: How can we attract the busy and over-committed typical persons of our community to Bower Hill Community Church?

Those two questions will be our focus as a church for the next three to five years. They are the result of the long, cumbersome and complicated process called Surfing the Edge that so many of us participated in. S.T.E. is a process that gets you to the place where you discover the opportunities or problems that you do not have solutions for, but if you did, it would transform you. So do not be deceived by how obvious those questions are. The power or force of the process is that it forces a church to address the hardest things rather than the edges of a problem or opportunity. We (churches in general) so often, for example, when worship attendance is declining redo our signs rather than wonder why what used to be effective is no longer helping our friends and neighbors to connect with God. I am encouraged that we will be one of the few churches trying to work on the hard things. Really just about every church in America needs the answers to questions very similar to ours and most of them are redoing their signs or putting more pictures in their newsletters.

Here is what happens next: Two teams will be assembled to address each of the questions. They will consist of six people, a coach, an elder presently serving on session and four members from the congregation. The teams will be guided by the presbytery and they will pray: research, think, observe and ponder and then in a few short months report back to the session with a handful of experiments, programs or new behaviors. The Session will implement them and some of these new behaviors will be effective and some will not. The teams will evaluate the results and direct changes and also give the session more new experiments to implement. It is important to remember that the session at the start of the S.T.E. process agreed in advance to implement the teams' recommendations. That was a condition of being allowed to participate in S.T.E. Over the next few years this will transform us as a congregation.

Now here is what I need each of you to do. Pray! Ponder the questions, and if there are things you have seen or heard about that address our two questions give that information to the respective teams. Mary Beth Waine has agreed to coach the first question and Betsy Hohlfelder will coach the second – we will be forever grateful for what they are about to do! Also in the next two weeks consider if you want to be one of the team members. Can you stay involved in a process that will be filled with false leads, confusing data and results that work well one place and fail at another? If you think you can, there are eight slots total and Diane Leeson and Christine Henney have already been busy assembling the teams. But it is important that any member of the congregation has the opportunity to volunteer. As you consider volunteering, do not underestimate how important a position it will be or how much work it will involve.

Soon, your pastors will be celebrating five years of ministry with you and we marvel at all the good mission we have done together. What I am particularly marveling at is that we (all of us) are going to take a shot at the opportunities and problems that are plaguing the mainline Church. To be proactive and hopeful about creating the future, rather than accepting it, is exciting! Faithfully, Leonard

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Mission News

Summer Travel to South Africa —Betsy Hohlfelder

I wanted to share with you a little bit about my summer “travel” to South Africa. Starting at the end of June, I began meeting with a 15-year old boy from Johannesburg named Lucky. No...I did not actually board a plane and fly to his native country to meet him. Rather, with the help of technology, we have been meeting 2-3 times a week via emails and videoconferencing on the Internet. Our relationship is part of a brand new program called Infinite Family.

The mission of Infinity Family is to match volunteers from America with African orphans in a mentoring relationship. The needs in Africa are enormous. According to Catholic Relief Services, one out of every eight households in Sub-Saharan Africa is headed by a child under the age of 18. By 2010, 19% of children in South Africa are projected to be orphans. Infinite Family is an innovative and cost effective way of using technology to enable volunteers to help make a difference to children who are far, far away.

Lucky lives in a shelter called Nkosi’s Haven, along with over 50 other children. Most of the children are orphans, but about 10 of them live at the facility along with their mothers, who are HIV-positive. Before I was matched with Lucky, I went through an application process, which included references and an interview. In June, I participated in a two-day training process. The training was wonderful. In addition to learning about the technical aspects of the program (the website, how to conduct a videoconference, etc), we also learned about the country and culture of South Africa, the history and impact of HIV/AIDS on Africa, grief and mourning of youth who have experienced losses due to AIDS, and how to enter into an effective mentoring relationship.

Once training was over, I was officially matched with Lucky. It was so fun to receive an email from him the very next day. Over the last few months we have gradually gotten to know one another. Has it been a fun and interesting experience? Absolutely! Have there been some difficulties and frustrations along the way? Sure. But the positives have far outweighed the negatives in this exciting adventure.

I mentioned to Lucky that I was going to write an article for our church newsletter and asked permission to tell you about him. He said to be sure to mention that he “loves Sponge Bob Squarepants, the rapper 50 Cent, and sweet-sour candies.” He wanted to know how many other people in our church were involved with Infinite Family, and I told him that I was the only one. I am hoping that sharing my experience might encourage a few others to get involved.

There is a \$40 monthly donation to be a volunteer. The money is used to support the technology, the kid’s programs and schooling and even to set up a small savings account for the child so that when they become an adult they have a little money to pursue their dreams/education. At Bower Hill, thanks to the generosity of the Margaret McKee fund, I pay for just ¼ of the donation, and the fund picks up the balance as a way of supporting this mission work. If you are at all interested in becoming an Infinite Family volunteer, or just want to learn a bit more about the program, please give me a call...I would love to talk to you.



Food Pantry—Jason Rising

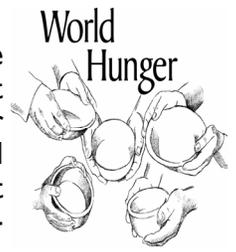
The Food Pantry appreciates your donations of toilet paper and facial tissue for the month of October. Donations will be collected on Sunday, October 8th. Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



Mission News

Poverty Simulation

On Tuesday September 19th, Rev. Laurie participated in a Poverty Simulation at the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank. It was an amazing and eye opening event. Each participant was given an identity and they had to navigate through the challenges that a great number of people struggle with every day. As a 31 year old woman with 2 children who found herself without a husband and no employment, Rev. Laurie had to find financial support and food stamps. If you're interested in learning more, contact Rev. Laurie. There is another Poverty Simulation coming soon, so if you're interested, let Rev. Laurie know!



Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, AZ Needs Your Help—Joan McNulty

Since 2001 Bower Hill members have helped the Hopi Mission School in Kykotsmovi, AZ by sending Campbell labels and General Mills Box Tops 4 Education. Along with many other churches and individuals who sent labels, the school was able to get a much needed van for 1,100,000 labels. Labels are now being collected to obtain another van. At last count their account balance for the Campbell's labels was 560,631 toward the 1,500,000 now needed.



M I N I S T R Y

Just this past fall \$1,300 was received by the school for the Box Tops 4 Education that have been sent to them. A van and money are much needed to keep this Christian Mission School open for Hopi Children.

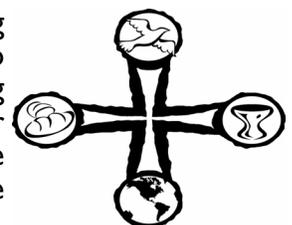
Jim and Joan McNulty have been doing this mission project the 6 years since it's inception. It's time for someone else to collect the labels and box tops from the church office and once a year mail them to the school. Contact them at 412-833-8450 to learn more about how you can continue this worthwhile project.

Hunger Action Event

Think you can't do anything about hunger? Think again!! On October 14th you will have the opportunity to listen to and be inspired by Donald Messer, author of Ending Hunger Now. He will be speaking at our church at 11:00 am and following his keynote speech, there will be hands on activities to participate in to do something about hunger. There are many opportunities to get involved in this event so we hope you consider how God is calling you to serve.

- Attend the event on October 14 from 11:00am-2:30 pm
- Spread the word by inviting friends and handing out flyers
- Purchase a ticket for the Chinese Auction (tickets will be sold after worship beginning Oct. 1st)
- Sign up to volunteer during the day of the event: we need greeters, guides, ushers, folks to sell lunches and help serve lunch. We need to have people to help out with the different activities like the gift fair, petting zoo, letter writing, book signing, coffee house and pumpkin painting (there is a sign up in the narthex).

Our first hope for this event is that it spreads the word that we can do something about hunger to our community! Our second hope is that we enable people to participate in hunger action activities so that they see that little acts can make a big difference. Our last hope is that event helps to connect people to different hunger agencies so that they begin to form a relationship and find opportunities to take action in the future. These are high hopes, and we ask you to help us to pray for the success of this event even as you get involved and participate in making this happen!



**Hunger
Action Team**

Worship News

Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

Greeters: October 1—Judy Delestienne, Al & Betty Eisenbeis
 October 8—Betty Ewing, Ruth Foltz, George & Eleanora Freas
 October 15—Pete Fenton, Mary Good, Cynthia Gissin
 October 22—Dave & Nancy Green, Jean Grabow,
 Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder
 October 29—Christine Henney, Dave & Susan Hicks,
 Woody & Barbara Hughes

Coffee Hour: October 1—Mary Beth Waine

October 8—Wendy Mazzini
 October 15—George & Elenora Freas
 October 22—John & Karen Zoll
 October 29—Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder



Communion Servers for November

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on Sunday, November 5th. If you are not able to serve communion, please arrange for a substitute.



Dave & Nancy Green
 Donna Williams
 Anne Noland
 Jim & Joan McAnulty
 Richard Rothrock
 Marge Sewall
 Choir: Rick & Pat Jacobs

October 1: 9:00am Isaiah 2:3-5 "Swords & Plowshares" Rev. Laurie
 10:15am Mark 9:38-41 "Careful!" Rev. Leonard

October 8: 9:00am Mark 10:2-16 "Hardness of Heart!" Rev. Laurie
 10:15 am "What Do We Want God to Do For Us?" Rev. Leonard

October 15: 9:00am&10:15am Ephesians 4:1-16 "Our Parts!" Rev. Leonard

October 22: 9:00am Mark 10:35-45 "What does it mean to be a slave?" Rev. Laurie
 10:15am "Servanthood"



Education News

Adult Education For October

October 1—Malawi Partnership; presentation by Malawi student
 October 8—Immigration; Paul Guarntillo, Pres., Laborers Union
 October 15—Immigration; Valerie May, Immigration Attorney
 October 22—Nuclear Terrorism; based upon Graham Allison's book: *Nuclear Terrorism: The Preventable*

Catastrophe; with Caryl Beal

October 29—Nuclear Terrorism; based upon Graham Allison's book: *Nuclear Terrorism: The Preventable*
Catastrophe; with Caryl Beal



Church News

Policy for Publishing Pictures on the Web Site—Glenn Child

The Fill Our Truck project last May brought to light an issue related to the web site. We posted the story of the project but wanted to post pictures to support the story. Photographs portray the human side of a story that is difficult to capture in words. We had the pictures but we have always been very cautious about posting pictures, especially of the children. We decided it was important to include the pictures. So, we carefully selected the pictures and posted them without any names in the captions. That was fine as a temporary solution, but the time had come to develop a policy for posting pictures of members to the web site. We believe the following policy will give us the combination of the ability to post pictures in a timely manner and insure the privacy of members of the church. The policy was approved by session at the August meeting. If you have any concerns or suggestions for improvement, please contact Glenn Child.



This policy covers publishing pictures of people participating in our church's activities on our web site.

*Pre Publishing Exclusion:

- o A member can request that pictures of themselves and/or their children are not to be posted on the web site.
- o A list of those who request to be excluded will be maintained by the office secretary.

*Publishing Guidelines:

- o Submitted pictures for the web site, which contain people on the exclusion list, will not be posted.
- o Pictures will be reviewed for appropriateness, especially those of member's children before being posted.
- o No names of the people in the pictures will be listed for any of the pictures.
- o Those pictures published in the members' only section will have additional protection in that a user login id and password will be required.

*Post Publishing Exclusion:

A member can request that a specific picture of themselves or their children be deleted from the web site.

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

Following are some highlights from the August 28th Session meeting:

Session endorsed Dave Green as a candidate For Senior Vice Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery for the year 2007.

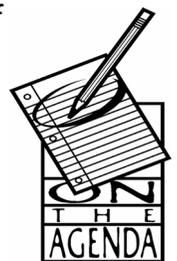
Rev. Jim Mead, Pittsburgh Presbytery, led Session through the next steps of the "Surfing the Edge" project. Session selected two Adaptive Change challenges, based on feedback from data gathered in "listening groups." Action teams will now be formed to move the project into the next phase.

Administration & Personnel Committee approved the hiring of: Thomas C. Flynn—Interim Music Director; Elliot Roth—Contemporary Worship Music Director; Brian Hayes—Director of Youth Programs.

Session approved funds to correct an outside lighting equipment problem.

Session adopted a policy for publishing pictures on the church website.

Session approved baptism for Allison Faith Bruder on 9-10-06.



Church News

Pittsburgh Presbytery Celebration of the Ordination of Women:

Flames of Grace and Glory



Women of the Church

Sunday, November 12, 2006 at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
100 Years as Deacons; 75 Years as Elders; 50 Years as Ministers of Word and Sacrament
The Rev. Dr. Dale Lindsay Morgan, from Santa Barbara, CA will present a biblical dramatization of Women from the Bible

Worship will be at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner. Cost is \$15.00 per person.

For more information, please contact: Penny Young at Pittsburgh Presbytery, 412-323-1400, ext 320.

Bower Hillers



The Bower Hillers may not be meeting in October. Please stay tuned to upcoming bulletins and check your mail for further announcements. Thank you.

Bookworms

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

November 21st: *Suite Francaise*, by Irene Nemirovsky; at the home of Anne Mitchell.



Youth News



FROM THE
YOUTH DIRECTOR

Introduction—Brian Hayes

I greet the congregation of Bower Hill with appreciation and gratitude upon accepting the position of Youth Director at this church.

Growing up in Upper St. Clair, I attended Westminster Presbyterian Church. At Westminster, I involved myself in the youth program. As high school approached, I began leading the junior high youth group. Upon graduating high school, I soon embarked on a series of travels which led me across the country and back. During this time, I established ephemeral residences in numerous cities which carried me through my early twenties. My transient lifestyle finally came to an end when I settled in San Diego for a couple of years. In the search for an adjective to describe myself as I returned home in 2004, the word "Prodigal" would be a generous understatement. However, I was fortunate enough to have parents who helped me get back on my feet.

Currently, my attention has shifted toward finishing school. On the weekends I work at a local restaurant, lovino's Café. I am twenty-six years old and live in the Mt. Lebanon area. If anyone would ever wish to offer or ask questions, my door is always open. I encourage any interested people to contact me here at the church.

I envision theology with a metaphor: God is the composer and we are all afforded the opportunity to be conductors. I believe in accelerating the harmony in life through humility and love. I will encourage individuals to harness the power of a free mind, while remaining humble. I aim to celebrate the life of every person through my own life. I thank all who are involved in this opportunity for the youth to unite and evolve. Thank you! Brian Hayes

Youth News—Christine Henney

Oct 1st @ 6:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.; Middle School Bowling
Night"

Oct 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.; Sr. High "Terror

Oct 8th @ 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Steeler Tailgate

Oct 29th, time & location, TBA; combined

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

A New Baby!

We welcome Carter Donald Pitt, son of Marc and Deidre Pitt; born on September 20, 2006 at 2:10 a.m. Carter weighed 6lbs, 3 oz.

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
Marcia Maley, Marian Manor, 2695 Winchester Drive, #216C, Pittsburgh, PA 15220
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

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)

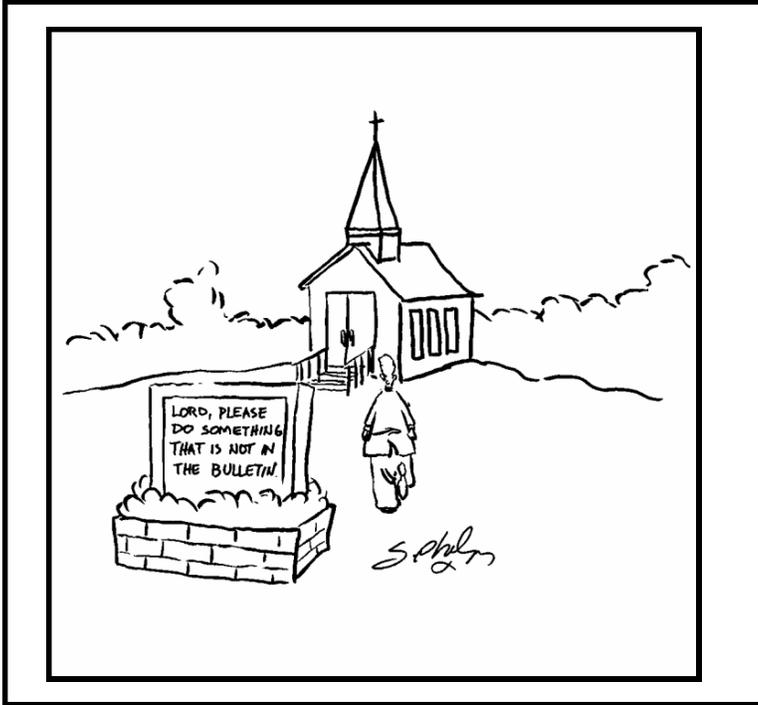
Mary Good (Secretary)

Margaret Zabo (Welcome Baby)

Elaine Dalmaso

Phyllis Yohe

COMEDY CORNER



OUR CHURCH STAFF

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 - 5:15 pm

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Our Web Page is: www.bhccml.com

*Please note that the newsletter deadline has changed to the 15th of every month. This is a permanent change. Thank you.

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