

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

FEBRUARY 2007

Unity

“How good and pleasant it is when sisters and brothers dwell in unity!” Psalm 133:1

On January 18, the Presbyterian calendar indicates that it is the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Usually when we think of unity, we think of people getting along or living in peace. We think of harmony instead of discord or fighting in the world and especially in the church. This week however, your pastors began to think of unity in a different way. On Monday, the music on the Pray-As-You-Go devotion (www.pray-as-you-go.org) was an amazing rendition of the Psalm mentioned above, and we started to think about the unity of people living with concern for each other. This led to the thought that unity could also be thought of as a state where there was less disparity between those who have and those who do not have enough. The unity of the early church is spoken of in the book of Acts. “All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all as any had need.” Acts 2:44-45. This led us to struggle with the question: “How do the everyday choices we make, affect others?”

Now we confess, that most of the time, we don’t think about the unfair distribution of things. Often our time is spent thinking only about what we want and need more than we should. It’s so easy to live life looking jealously at others who have more than we do instead of thinking of the millions who don’t. For us, the struggle to look deeper at the choices we make and how they impact others really began in a profound way last year when we embarked on our Lenten study. In the time that has passed since last year’s Lenten Study we, as a church, have been busy with many mission activities that have helped to make a difference in the lives of the poor and hungry around us. In addition, as we have begun to explore the issue of Global Warming with the movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, your pastors have started to think about other ways that our individual choices affect the world. With this in mind, during Lent, we invite you to spend some time with us, considering and exploring how making some simple changes in how you live will impact the world. In this newsletter, you will find a brochure that includes a 40 day calendar for Lent which focuses on living a simpler life. As in prior years, we will hold a Wednesday Evening Lenten Study at 7:00 pm. The study will begin on Wed. Feb. 28th and each week, we will come together at 6:30 pm for a simple soup supper. We’re calling the study “Lenten Impact” and the class will focus on the discipline of simplicity.

Our hope is that as we explore this topic, it will affect the choices we make and change us so that we become a people whose lives reflect the unity that God calls us to. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, “We have

learned to fly the air like the birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not learned the simple art of living together as brothers.” In this holy season, let us strive to examine our lives and look to God’s transforming presence to work within us. God continues to do a new thing here with and through us and we can’t wait for what God has in store this year! We hope you will join us. Blessings, Rev. Leonard & Rev. Laurie



*How very good
and pleasant it is
when kindred live
together in unity!*
Psalm 133:1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lent News	2
Church News	3-4
Mission News	5
Youth & Education News	6
Care List Elders and Deacons	7

Lent & Worship News

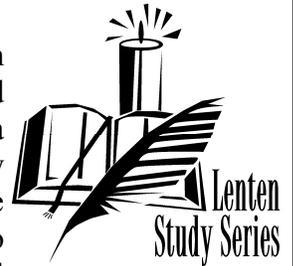


Ash Wednesday Service

Join us in the Sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 21, 2007 for a Service of Healing and Wholeness. This service will include Tazie music and will provide an opportunity to enter intentionally into the Lenten season. During the service, participants will be invited to come forward to ask for prayers of healing and wholeness in their lives. The service will conclude with the celebration of Communion. The service will be held at 7:30 pm and childcare will be provided. We hope you will come and spend some time in prayer and reflection to prepare yourself for the Lenten journey.

Lenten Impact

Lenten Impact Part I: During Lent, you are invited to spend more time growing in faith as we explore together the topic of Simplicity. Last year's Lenten study amazed us all with the impact it had on our lives and on our mission as we together formed a Hunger Action Team to take on the issues of hunger and poverty. This year's study holds even more promise as we spend some time together reflecting on the choices we make each and every day and how they impact the world. This study will delve into Scripture and involve not only self reflection and personal faith development, but it will also explore topics of justice and our common call to action. The study will start at 6:30 pm with a time of fellowship and a simple meal of soup and bread. At 7:00 pm we will begin our work with the expectation that the class will conclude at 8:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.



Lenten Impact Part II: Each Sunday in worship the bulletin will contain an action opportunity to make an impact on the world by changing one thing you do. Look for the first insert on February 25th.

Lenten Impact Part III: Use the Lenten brochure in this newsletter to take daily action to impact the world. Each day provides an opportunity to do something to help others. We hope you'll join us this Lent!



Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

Greeters:
February 4—Pete & Elaine Dalmaso, Janis Shaw, Jamie Sonnie
February 11—Tom & Debby Hayes, Jennifer Ramaley, John &

Karen Zoll
February 18—Bill & Nancy Andrews, Andrejs & Inese Baumhammers, Bob & Joan Bridges
February 25—Doris Olinger, Jim & Bev Burke, Dottie Carter

Coffee Hour:

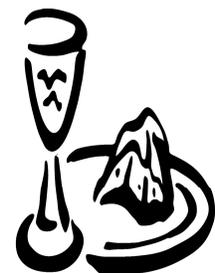
There are sign up sheets in the Friendship Room, for dates through the spring and summer. Thank you!

February 4—Todd & Christi Westerhoff
February 11—John & Karen Zoll
February 18—Janis & Marian

Communion Servers for March

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on Sunday, March 4th. If you are not able to serve communion, please arrange for a substitute.

Bill Andrews
Nancy Andrews
George Freas
Eleanora Freas
Tim Lease
Carolyn Westerhoff
Ivan Shnorhokian
Cindy Waller
Choir: Rick & Pat Jacobs



Communion Servers

Church News

Member Only Section of Our Web Site—Glenn Child

The members section is finally ready for use. Below is a summary of the type of information available. But first you need to be aware of some details to use the new section. You will need to register by clicking on the menu item **Members** then clicking on **Register Now**. If you have any questions about filling out the form, please contact Glenn Child. There will be a delay of a few days before your registration is complete. The church secretary will verify your submitted information. In a few cases, she may give you a phone call to verify that the request was submitted by yourself. This is to prevent non members from registering by using your name and their email address.

Every effort has been made to keep our member information secure by using standard security techniques. But we can not guarantee 100% that some one could not compromise our web site software or our internet server provider's software. We only require a minimal number of fields to register such as email address and name. You may want to be selective in filling the optional fields such as address, phone number and children's names, if you have concerns. These fields are only used for the online directory which only verified church members will have access to.

At the current time, the member demographic information maintained on the web site is NOT being kept in sync with the master copy the office maintains. So, if you make address changes, phone number, etc.; please inform the office of the change, in addition to making the change here. After we have everything working smoothly on the members section, we will look at coordinating the member demographic information.

You can register as an individual or as a family. If you choose to register as a family, please include the first name of your spouse. Lastly, fill in the name of any kids, separated by commas, in the kid's names field. In the near future, the monthly or special emails to all members will be only to those who have registered.

What you can do	Name of menu items (On right side of page)
Need to see if you volunteered and are scheduled for an activity or who you could switch with?	Coffee Hour Host, Communion Servers, Greeters, Lectors, Session, Devotional Leader, Ushers
Need to borrow medical equipment and want to see what is available?	Inventory of Medical Aids
Want to know about our member's health status and prayer needs?	Members at Home Members in Caring Facilities Prayer Requests Recent Deaths
Want to know what's been discussed or decided at session meetings?	Session Meeting Summary
Want to communicate with staff or office general information or joys and concerns?	Email Staff Submit Requests to Office
Want to know a members email address or home address?	Member Directory (Some members may not choose to have this information available on the web site).
Want to change your web profile?	Change Password Edit Preferences

If you find any inaccurate information or problems with the members section, please email Glenn Child at gstchild@adelphia.net with a description of the problem.

Church News

Missional Action Team 1—Mary Beth Waine

Missional Action Team 1 is working on the following 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 Jefferson Middle Schools?



DRAWING YOUTH

During training, Dr. Jim Mead emphasized that our biggest obstacle is what we already know. Thus, finding new ways to look at this question is one of our earliest challenges. After training and three meetings so far, we've gained familiarity and a degree of comfort with the MAT process, a process carefully designed to identify challenges and initiate change.

Our team members, Marian Brannan, Kirsten Bruder, Wendy Mazzinni, Doris Olinger, Janis Shaw, Mary Beth Waine and Karen Zoll, bring together a variety of backgrounds, life experiences and skills. We also share a deep commitment to working together on this challenge. We will provide you with updates and remember that we always welcome your questions and ideas, and we ask for your prayers.

Your Mission Action Team at Work—Betsy Hohlfelder

The Mission Action Team# 2 (MAT2) is Betsy Hohlfelder, Mary Good, Rick Jacobs, Tim Lease, Jean Miewald and Lori Schofield. We have met 3 times since we were commissioned in December to "Discover how to attract the typical over-committed people in our community to Bower Hill".

We started our work by considering why people might or might not go to church. After talking to neighbors and friends, we started to question just how attractive Bower Hill Church is to our congregation and the surrounding community. We seem to have plenty of commitment to various causes by various individuals or groups, but we don't seem to have that spontaneous enthusiasm that members of growing churches seem to display.

We have been reading books about characteristics of "vital" churches, and they all seem to have one thing in common. They are actively seeking God's will for their church, and their worship, mission and programs are focused to fulfill God's purpose for their church. Of course they care about membership growth, good programs and mission that meets real needs, but all of that is secondary to discerning God's will and doing it.

The MAT2 believes that there may be something to this way of thinking. If we truly believe that God has a unique purpose for Bower Hill, and that He has future blessings to bestow, then our challenge is to discover that purpose, and prepare to follow God's will wherever it leads. Clearly, that is not easy, and we will be exploring how to accomplish this over the next several months.



Bookworms

February 20—*The Innocent Man*, by John Grisham, at the home of Diane Leeson.

March 20—*The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, by Kim Edwards, at the home of Nancy Green.

April 17—*What Is The What*, by Dave Eggers, at the home of Nina Helbling.



Mission News

Wish Upon A...Well?—Dave Hicks

Watch for a "Wishing Well" to appear in the Narthex very soon. We are asking members and visitors to donate spare change or more to help drill a water well in Malawi. We are working with the Crafton Heights Church and the Malawi Partnership to put this well in Roy Mponda's village; Roy visited us this past summer and was hosted by Bev & Don Lamb. The mission committee has designated money for this project, but it is not enough to pay the entire cost of a well which is \$3-5,000. Can any of us imagine walking three miles each day to collect the water for our family? I can't. Let's get this done!



Label Collection—Bill Wegener

Thanks to all who are diligently collecting labels for the Hopi Mission—the collection folder is located in the church office. A second or third collection point is under consideration. Please be aware that we can now send only the UPC bar code off the labels. The labels without the UPC code are of no value to the Mission. Thanks for helping!

Mission Trip To New Orleans

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church is organizing two trips to New Orleans where they will be staying at area churches and doing blitz builds on a number of already gutted homes. Hosanna Industries will be joining them on the first trip scheduled for March 17-24, 2007; the second trip is planned for March 31-April 7, 2007. They still have space available on both trips, the cost of which is projected to be \$450. If anyone is interested, please contact Sharon Lee at slee1214@yahoo.com or 412-963-0410. Please note that there are funds from the Margaret McKee mission fund available for any interested BHCC members.

Tutoring And Other Opportunities—Dave Hicks

There are several additional mission opportunities available to work with The Neighborhood Academy. They include: tutoring, working in their school supply store or being a morning worship leader. I have all of the information regarding times, dates, etc. So if you are interested in serving this very worthwhile organization, or have any questions about any of these opportunities, please call me in the evening at: 412-833-7753.



Be an
Influence

Crestfield Spring Work Camp

For three days, April 17-19, 2007, we invite you to join us for Mission, Fellowship, and Discipleship for active adults in the beautiful and comfortable setting of Crestfield. This is an opportunity to grow in your faith in Jesus Christ by sharing your gifts, talents, and skills to various ministries in the region. Whatever your age or skill, we can find a job for you to give back your talents to Jesus. Visit our web site for more details and on-line registration.

http://www.crestfield.net/spring_work_camp.htm

Washington City Mission

A dessert festival for the whole family will take place on Sunday, February 11, 2007, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There will be live music all day, clowns and face painting, cool crafts, and a caricature artist. Proceeds will benefit the Washington City Mission. For more information, call: 724-228-9240.

Food Pantry Collection for February

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations of toilet or facial tissue for the month of February. Thanks to all who participated last month! This month's donations will be collected on Sunday, February 11th. We hope you will join our efforts! Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



Youth & Education News



Youth News for February—Brian Hayes

This fall, I established a set of three goals for the summer work trip to hopefully accomplish. The first goal is to nurture every individual student's relationship between Christ's altruism, God's grace, as well as the Holy Spirit's joy. The second goal is to increase and fuse involvement between the youth and the congregation. The third goal is to develop a sense of servitude and humility while ameliorating the fellowship amongst the students. The San Diego mission trip will accomplish all three goals. One irony that will be apparent is that the students will see the cosmetic and surface beauty of this city while they are serving in social service based work to help the economically underprivileged. The juxtaposition of tourism and poverty serves as a wonderful teaching tool. Additionally, the cost of the trip will be great. As a result, the students must engage in a series of fundraisers to cover the expenses. The congregation can expect to see a slew of upcoming fundraisers which will depend on both the students' assertiveness and the congregation's participation. The fundraising will not only allow the congregation the opportunity to support our youth, it will also encourage the student to unite and strive for a common goal.

A new, weekly Bible study program has launched for our high school students. We meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 in my office. The subject matter includes a critical perspective into the strategy Jesus demonstrated through Matthew's gospel. We will be simultaneously examining current events. Similarities exist between the frustrations many Iraqis are feeling about their country's development and the dissatisfaction demonstrated by zealots in Jesus' time towards their Roman occupation. Both situations involve a fire-fueled general public, filled with angst; due to a set of expectations which were not met. The Holy Spirit obviously enacted a most unexpected story through the legacy of Jesus, as he deeply affected the civilization. The gravity of world politics today will forge a path for our society. I hope to continually realize how Christ can influence the dichotomy between all of us and the world. This is the central concept I wish to disseminate at the Bible Study. The gift of reaction is a complicated and passionate element to our humanity. Our Bible Study, God willing, will help the students react to life with humility, passion, a discerning intellect, and a grateful attitude. I close with Proverbs 16:1 & 7: "To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue...When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him."

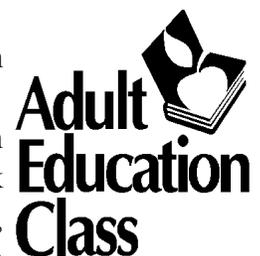
Events: 2-3 High School, Hoagie Distribution, Youth Lounge. 12-1 p.m. 2-11 Middle School, Zoo Excursion. 2-5:30 p.m. 2-18 High School, Chillin Night. 7-8:30 p.m. 2-25 Middle School, Grocery Hunt, Mission Event. 6-8 p.m. 3-9 Middle School, Lock-in. 8 p.m. – 9 a.m.

Adult Education for February

February 4—Continuation with Anna Thorpe who will be speaking about the crisis in Darfur.

February 11, 18, 25—"Saints, Sinners, Heroes and Heroines" Series, featuring historian Elaine Wertheim. Local art historian Elaine Wertheim will present a three week seminar on Christian figures in art on February 11, 18 and 23. Titled "Saints, Sinners, Heroes and Heroines," the series focuses on how artists brought their dynamic vision to Christian heroes and heroines. David, Mary Magdalene, Jerome and Saint George are some of the characters who inspired masters such as Rembrandt, Michelangelo and Donatello.

Mrs. Wertheim is well known in the area for her classes on art, architecture and film at the library and the high school's evening program, as well as her contributions to Mt. Lebanon Magazine. Join us in the chapel at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings for some mental stimulation and fellowship! (submitted by Debbie Boisvert).



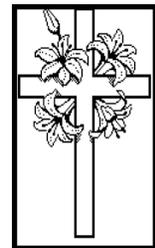
Care List

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
Harry Dunfee, Covenant of South Hills, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Ruth Fenton, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Bob Gavett, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd., #6443, 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

Office email: office@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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70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15243