

# Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

*A place to Believe, Belong and Become!*

**MARCH 2007**

## *Life & Death & Life Again*

I suppose it is natural in the season of Lent to think about life and death; after all, during the Ash Wednesday Service we impose ashes with the words, “from dust you came, to dust you shall return.” The Lenten journey is really an opportunity to walk with Jesus through the last days of his life, towards the cross, towards death. I’m certain that the thoughts of life and death and life again do have something to do with this season of Lent that we are in the midst of, but the sudden death of Ed Ruh and the lengthy suffering and ultimate death of Jane Decker have also contributed to the weighty thoughts I have been experiencing. Also wrapped up in my reflections are continued thoughts about the more than 35,000 children who die every day because they don’t have enough to eat and the millions of suffering refugees in Darfur. As we live as people who are constantly confronted by the shadow of death through loved ones, daily news stories and our own medical struggles it is hard to avoid thoughts of life and death and life again.

For some reason, I have taken comfort in these words found in a prayer for funerals from the Book of Common Worship: *Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.* As I think about the words, “Help us to live as those who are prepared to die,” I hear a challenge to make moments count. I also hear the clear call to do things that matter. Believe it or not, the idea for the simplicity series that we have undertaken during Lent began with the desire to uncomplicated life so that we are able to pay attention to the things that really matter. There is so much to care about in the world, and I know that as the cries of the hungry have become louder for me, so have other concerns for peace and the protection of the environment. However, these are things that I want to care about as I live as a person prepared to die.

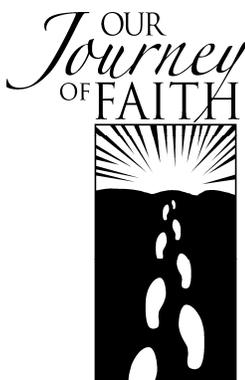
Somehow simplicity and these bigger issues are connected for me and also the call to make what I do matter as I am involved in the world. For me, asking the question daily, “Have I done something today to make a difference?” is a great beginning. Even if I’ve only done something small to impact one person, or even if I have only begun to think about changing something I do to impact others, it is a step on the journey. I have always struggled and found comfort in Jesus’ words, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself, each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34) I now hear in these words an invitation to focus on making today count for something rather than getting overwhelmed because I can’t accomplish everything immediately.

In addition to the call to make moments matter, I also hear in the words: *Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are ended, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in Jesus*

*Christ our risen Lord.* a reminder of the comfort I find in my faith and in God’s promise of life again.

We must never forget that the journey with Jesus does not end at the cross, but continues on with life again at the resurrection. That is the promise of faith and the purpose of the journey we travel on to life and death and life again. May our footsteps along the way follow in the one who leads to the cross and the empty tomb and may we find the courage to live as people who are prepared to die as we make moments matter as we live this life. Faithfully,

Rev. Laurie



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Worship News	2
Church News	3-4
Mission News	5
Youth and Education News	6
Joys & Concerns	7

# Worship News



## Lenten Impact

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.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

In April we will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. This is one of the PCUSA special offerings and it does a remarkable amount of good to help people in need all around the world. Look for an offering envelope in this newsletter. In the Lenten brochure (40 days to a Simpler Life) provided in last month's newsletter, there are a few activities to set aside money for a cause, we recommend that you consider using the funds set aside for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Let us give generously!

(Additional copies of the Lenten brochure are available in the church office.)



## Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

### Greeters:

March 4: 9am: Chuck & Mary Laufer;

10:15am: Dick Rothrock, Nancy Criswell,  
Anne Colquitt

March 11: 9am: Eric & Lynn Schardt;

10:15am: Anne Noland, Judy Delestienne,  
Al & Betty Eisenbeis

March 18: 9am: Curt & Kathy Philson;

10:15am: Betty Ewing, Ruth Foltz,  
George & Eleanora Freas

March 25—9am: Jenny Ramaley;

10:15am: Pete Fenton, Mary Good,  
Cynthia Gissin



### Coffee Hour:



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

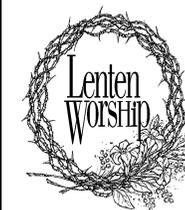
March 4—Kirsten Bruder and Kurt Kerner

March 11—Jason and Kiri Rising

March 18—Lou and Wendy Mazzini

March 25—Jim and Beverly Burke

## Taize Worship



During Lent, we will be replacing our regular praise choruses at the 9:00 am worship service with Taize music. Taize music is like a combination of prayer and song. It is repetitive and contemplative. So if you are looking for something a little different, check out the 9am service in March.

## Communion Servers For April

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

Betty Ewing

Pete Fenton

LuAnn McNickle

Marian Brannan

Curt & Kathy Philson

Christine Henney

Choir: Lee Ferrero and Lynn Wohleber



Communion Servers

# Church News

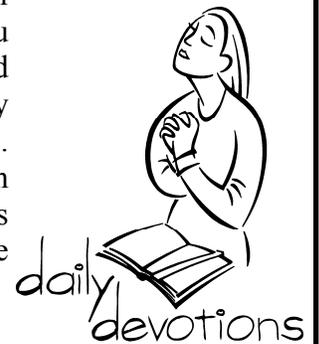
## Remembering Loved Ones—Theresa Child



Have you ever noticed the beautiful flowers in the front of the church every Sunday? Each week's flowers are donated once a year by members of the congregation in honor or memory of loved ones. Following the Sunday services, the Deacons deliver the flowers to members of the congregation in special need, or the donor can ask for the flowers to be delivered to someone specific or take some home for themselves. There are two open dates to be filled: May 6th and July 1st. The cost of the flowers is \$30. A letter will be sent in advance to ensure that special requirements are honored. If you would like to donate flowers for one of the available dates call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or Nancy Green at 412-531-2205.

## Pray As You Go – Try It...You Just Might Like It!—Glenn Child

Do you have trouble having the discipline to find the time to do some form of daily bible reading or daily devotional? Well, I certainly do! Finding time to sit down before or after work to read, just doesn't happen. For those of you in this situation, I want to recommend the *Pray As You Go* website. This web site allows you to download daily devotionals and play them when ever you want. In my case, I download a week of devotionals to my MP3 player and listen to one each day on public transportation on the way to work. You can just as easily download the MP3 files and burn an audio CD for use in your Walkman, car or home CD player. Another option is to listen to it on your computer. While convenience is a big factor for me, the content of the devotion makes it worthwhile for anyone. Even if you are able to read the bible daily, I believe you would find this devotional an excellent supplemental activity. The typical daily devotional is 10-15 minutes. Most devotionals begin with music that helps to get you in the proper frame of mind. Each devotional is centered around a short Bible passage. A narrator recites additional information that helps you think about the passage. At the end of the devotional, you are given the opportunity to communicate with God about what you just read. I find this combination of music, bible passages and guided meditation very powerful. So, try it...you just might like it. If anyone needs help downloading, I can show you the steps. If you need a CD with a weeks worth of daily devotionals they are available on Sunday. You can go directly to [www.pray-as-you-go.org](http://www.pray-as-you-go.org) or go to the Bower Hill's website, [www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com) and click on the Pray As You Go link at the bottom of the left hand column. There is an additional link to other devotional web sites.



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

Here are highlights from the Session meeting of January 22, 2007:

- The Clerk read a letter from Pittsburgh Presbytery, authorizing Bower Hill Church to send two Elder Commissioners to each Presbytery Meeting in 2007.
- Session approved a recommendation of no change in Terms of call for the Pastors for 2007. Terms of Call will be presented at the Semi Annual Meeting.
- Session approved the 2007 Budget of \$386,276 as presented.
- Session approved a transfer of \$3,000 to the Major Maintenance Reserve.
- Session called the first Semi-Annual Congregational meeting for February 25th.



# Church News

## Medical Rescue South Is Coming To Bower Hill—Anne Mitchell

This spring, after the second worship service on Sunday, Medical Rescue South of Mt. Lebanon will offer a class for CPR, for both new and renewal training on the Heart Defibrillator. They will also check our Defibrillator to make sure that it is in good working condition. It is strongly recommended that all ushers take this course. At this time the cost of this training is unknown. Please watch for more information in the near future or call the church office or Anne Mitchell with questions.



## Thanks For Presbytery Hospitality

—Dave Green

Dear Friends at Bower Hill:

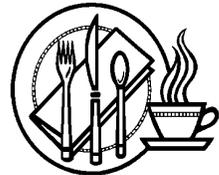
Thanks to all who helped to host the February 8th meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery at Bower Hill Church. It was a happy coincidence that my first meeting as moderator of presbytery was at my home church. Your enthusiastic preparations for the meeting and your warm hospitality again made me proud to say that Nancy and I are members of our church family. Our co-pastors Laurie and Leonard provided thoughtful leadership. Custodian Jim Kline had our building in great shape. The Session, which had nominated me last year for the moderator's post, made careful preparations for the meeting. The crew of men who directed parking were welcoming and effective. Our Board of Deacons with other volunteers prepared and served an excellent pre-meeting reception buffet that drew praise and admiration from the attending presbyters. Those who served as greeters efficiently guided our guests through our complex building. I am grateful to all of you who helped me launch my term as moderator in such a gracious manner.

A NOTE OF



## The Bower Hillers

The Bower Hillers are back! This month's gathering will be at Chartier's Country Club and will be hosted by Betty Chidlow. Look for your invitation in the mail. Betty can be reached at: 412-276-3697.



## Home Communion

Your pastors want you to know that if you are unable to celebrate communion during worship we would be happy to bring it to you at your home. All you have to do is ask. Please contact the church office if you are interested in receiving Home Communion.



## Camp Crestfield



Thinking about going to camp this summer? Why not check out the Pittsburgh Presbytery's own Camp Crestfield. The camp season is held from June 17-August 3, with shorter camp and family camp options. For more information, check out the website at [www.crestfield.net](http://www.crestfield.net), or look for brochures on the bulletin board outside the church office

## Bookworms

Bookworms is the name of the women's book club at Bower Hill. Each month women gather at someone's home for a book discussion and fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome!

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 Joan McAnulty.



# Mission News

## SHIM/ \$1 Million Challenge

—Betsy Hohlfelder

For the past 9 years, philanthropist Alan Feinstein and The Feinstein Foundation have been giving away \$1 million each year to anti-hunger agencies throughout the country through a challenge grant. 2007 will be no exception and SHIM will be participating in this year's effort.

SHIM's participation is simple. Donations, either cash or non-perishable food items made between March 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> that mention the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge, will be included in the challenge. SHIM will total the donation amount and submit the necessary paperwork to The Feinstein Foundation by May 9<sup>th</sup>. The \$1 million will then be divided proportionately among all participating agencies from across the country. Agencies are guaranteed a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000.

The intent of the Challenge is to generate new/additional gifts to anti-hunger agencies. If you have never made an individual donation to SHIM or want to give a gift beyond what you usually do, now would be a perfect time to do so. Your support of the Feinstein \$1 Million Challenge will allow your gift to SHIM the opportunity to grow with an additional contribution from The Feinstein Foundation. We know that we ask a lot of our Bower Hill members, but this is one more excellent opportunity to help those in need.



## Mission Needs



## Diaper Collection

—Diane Leeson

During the month of March, the Mission Committee will be collecting disposable diapers (all sizes needed), to be distributed to clients of SHIM on food pantry days. A collection box will be available at the portico entrance near the office. Also, coupons for diapers are always appreciated. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

## 12th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner

*Enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread...so a hungry child can be fed.*

The 12th Annual Empty Bowls Dinner is a simple meal of soup and bread to raise awareness of hunger in our communities. Guests take home their choice of over 1,000 handmade ceramic bowls. Children's activities feature Mike the Balloon Guy, Fantasy Faces, storytelling, with Read 365, and a special appearance from Charlie the Tuna! Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 11, 2007 from 3 to 7 p.m. Rodef Shalom Congregation, 4905 Fifth Avenue, Oakland

## Wish Upon A Well—Dave Hicks

The little wishing well that you see in the Narthex is there to collect spare change, or more, that you might have on Sunday to help drill another water well (bore hole) in Malawi. We are hopeful that the well will be drilled in Roy Mponda's village and the cost is \$3,500 to \$5,000. We have some of the money in the mission budget, and there is the possibility that the Crafton UP church may be able to partner with us to some extent in this very worthwhile effort. To make our goal we'll need to pitch in some spare change, so please help if you can. We also would like to thank Pete Dalmaso for creating the well in the narthex where you can insert your contributions.



## A Special Thanks!—Dave Hicks

Thanks to all who contributed to the Souper Bowl fundraiser. Through your generosity, \$198 and 140 cans of food were contributed to help feed the hungry. Special thanks to our fourth and fifth grade Sunday School Class for their work on this project.



## Food Pantry Collection For March

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations for the month of March. This month's donations of canned tuna or salmon and diapers will be collected on Sunday, March 11th. Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



# Youth & Education News



FROM THE  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

## Youth News For March—Brian Hayes

As the weather gets warmer, our mission trip date gets closer. We have set the date of March 11<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for registration. Be on the lookout for Soup & Sandwich Luncheons as well as another hoagie sale this month. If anyone would like to know more, please inquire through the church office or contact Brian at

[br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com).

The month of March contains a Lock-In and an excursion to Wildwood Highlands for the Middies. The high school kids will be going to the Penguin game on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The anticipation is intense. Our weekly Bible Study has been encouraging. We are still meeting every Thursday night at 7:00 in Brian's office. We also have the highly awaited Spaghetti Dinner upcoming in April, which will require extra help.

In each instance of an event we need help from parents. There are many ways to help. Transportation can be offered. In addition, we will require chaperones for the Lock-in as well as the mission trip. If anyone feels inspired, please let the youth department know through whatever medium is most convenient.

### Activities

3-9 Middies. Lock in. 8:00pm-9:00am

3-11 Youth Mission Trip meeting for parents. 11:30am

3-18 High School. Penguins Game. Leaving @ 6:15pm

3-25 Middies. Go-Cart excursion. 2:00-6:30pm

Thursdays. High School. Bible Study. 7:00-8:30pm

### Fund Raisers after Worship on Sundays

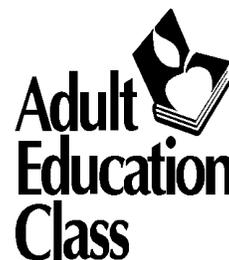
3-4 Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser

3-18 Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser

## Adult Education For March

March 4, 11, 18: Alan Hohlfelder will be facilitating a discussion of "The Sermon on the Mount."

March 25 and April 1: The Adult Education Committee will present and discuss the film: "A Closer Walk - A film about AIDS in the world. A story about the way the world is."

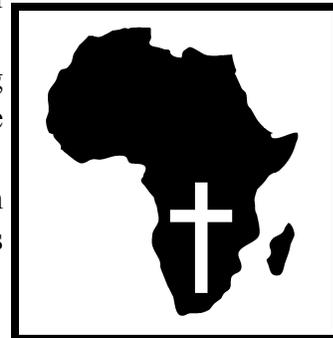


## Save Darfur

If you could save 4 million people by doing something as simple as walking...wouldn't you? The Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition is hosting a march and rally on Saturday April 28th at 2:00 pm. The march starts at Freedom Corner, corner of Centre Ave. and Crawford St., and will end with a rally at Market Square at 3:00 pm.

For more information, check out the local website at [www.pittsburghdarfur.org](http://www.pittsburghdarfur.org) or check out the national website at [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org). It's past time for the church to speak up about this genocide.

Look for other opportunities to get involved over the weekend and join us in worship on Sunday April 29th as we pray for Darfur and hold an Offering of Letters after worship.



# 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

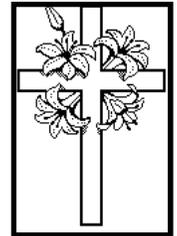
## **MEMBERS IN CARING FACILITIES:**

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 Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338 Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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

**Ed Ruh**  
**January 28**

**Jane Decker**  
**February 15**



# 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, Donna Williams

**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](mailto: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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