

Bower Hill Community Church Presbyterian Church (USA)

A place to Believe, Belong and Become!

APRIL 2007

Easter Hope

One of my favorite (and often neglected) Easter stories takes place after the visit to the tomb in Luke's gospel. The discovery has been made and not much has been said by Jesus' disciples. We are told in chapter 24 that two disciples, one of whom was Cleopas, were talking about all that had happened as they journeyed to Emmaus. Jesus appears and interrupts their conversation to ask them what they have been talking about as they walked along. It has always struck me as strange and delightfully mischievous that Jesus would ask them this question rather than revealing himself to them right away! As the disciples relay their story, they say, "we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." In that moment, for these disciples, they speak of their hope as a thing of the past. Meanwhile, the object of their former hopes, in a sense hope itself, is standing right beside them, walking along with them.

I take such comfort in this story and in the hope of Easter. The hope of women traveling to the tomb when all seems lost. The hope of disciples who want to believe but need proof. The hope that in the midst of the greatest darkness of all, the darkness of suffering and death, hope still can reign. It is this hope that leads us to the empty tomb. It is this hope that drives us to try and fail and try again. The life of a disciple is one challenged by hope to keep believing and trying even when things are at their darkest hour. Hope keeps us praying for peace even in countries torn by war. Hope encourages us to keep struggling to follow where God is leading even amidst life's hardships. Hope that things can be different than they are, sustains us so that we continue to work for justice in places where there is oppression.

Our Easter Hope invites us, encourages us and challenges us to look for ways to express our hope and share our hope with others. This month, as we worship the God who reveals that our resurrection hope is not in vain, our community of faith is being called to continue to live out the hope we believe in. I see this hope expressed as we continue to raise money with our wishing well project to bring clean water to Malawi. I see this hope demonstrated in the preparations being made for the Pittsburgh/Tri-State Weekend of Action for Darfur. I know this hope will shine forth as we participate in the march for Darfur and the offering of letters during the last weekend of April.

In this month when we celebrate the Easter Hope, let us look for opportunities to exemplify our hope and let us strive to shine God's light in the midst of the tomb darkened places. As we look forward to the actions that we will take together, it is our hope that the Bower Hill Community Church family will speak loudly and clearly of our hope for justice in the world by showing up in

record number to express our desire for action in the Sudan at the march in downtown Pittsburgh and by the multitude of letters that will be submitted during the offering of letters in worship.

Let us live as people of Easter Hope who instead of looking back on hopes not realized, look forward to new hopes as we partner with God to make God's hopes come to pass.

Rev. Laurie & Rev. Leonard

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Easter & Worship News

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: April 1, 2007

- 9:00 am Family Worship with Palm Parade
 10:15 am Traditional Worship— Everyone is encouraged to gather in the Fellowship Hall before worship as the choir leads the Procession of the Palms

Maundy Thursday: April 5, 2007

- 7:30 pm Tenebrae Communion Service—We will gather around tables in the Fellowship Hall for a retelling of the events leading up to the crucifixion.

Good Friday: April 6, 2007

Community Good Friday Service, Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, 3319 West Liberty Ave.

- 12:00-12:30 “Father forgive them,” Rev. Oden Warman
 12:30-12:55 “Truly, I say to you,” Rev. Don Ewing
 12:55-1:20 “Woman, behold your son!” Rev. Dr. Dan Merry
 1:20-1:45 “My God, my God,” Rev. Dr. William Gracey
 1:45-2:10 “I thirst,” Rev. Laurie Sponaugle
 2:10-2:35 “It is finished,” Rev. Heather Simpson
 2:35-3:00 “Father, into your hands,” Rev. Mark Williams



Easter Sunday: April 8, 2007

- 9:15 am Awakening Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
 10:15 am Worship in the Sanctuary with Brass Ensemble, led by George Vosburgh

Greeters & Coffee Hour Hosts

Greeters:

- April 1: 9am: Jason & Kiri Rising 10:15am: Dave & Nancy Green, Jean Grabow, Woody & Barb Hughes
 April 8: 10:15am: Jean Olsen, Dave & Susan Hicks, Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder
 April 15: 9am: Ral & Dorothy Warnock 10:15am: Ben & Jackie Holdsworth, Lucille Heckman, Nina Helbling
 April 22: 9am: Matt & Pam Maniet 10:15am: Dick & Kate Junker, Moody Johnson, Zoe Kelly
 April 29: 9am: Pete & Elaine Dalmaso 10:15am: Graham & Carol Knox, Truman & Jane Kohman, Dawn Kane

Coffee Hour:

- April 1—The Ramaley Family
 April 15—Available
 April 22—John & Karen Zoll
 April 29—The Fourth and Fifth Graders



Communion Servers

For May

The following people are scheduled to serve communion on Sunday, May 6th. If you are not able to serve communion, please arrange for a substitute.

- Ben & Jackie Holdsworth
 Phil & Linda Johnson
 Debbie Hayes
 Elaine Dalmaso
 Ron Linaburg

- Choir:
 Jean Miewald
 and Joan Zakor



Church News

Improving the Communication of the Death of a Member—Glenn Child

It was brought to Leonard's attention that some people were not aware of Margaret McKee's memorial service. The Evangelism and Membership committee has been asked to see if improvements can be made.

The current procedure is to: 1. Inform the session via their phone chain; 2. Inform the deacons via their phone chain; 3. Announce it at the next worship service; 4. Email all members who have supplied an email address; 5. Another source would be an obituary in a local newspaper.

If time permits, often a member learns of the death from another member who found out by one of the methods above.

Unfortunately, in Margaret's case, there was no worship service before the memorial service. Also, the situation was complicated by the fact that details of the service were not available until the day before the memorial service. An email was sent out but time for word of mouth to spread the information was very limited.

While there will probably never be a method to insure 100% communication, we want to take some steps to improve the communication of such important events. In addition to the current method, we are proposing to setup a phone chain for those who may be missed by the current methods. In order to keep the chain manageable, we are asking those that have other methods to receive the information to not ask to be included in the chain. So, those on Session and the Deacons are covered. Those who are receiving the mass emails from church and check their emails on a regular basis should also be covered. For those members who may not be informed in time and want to be part of the phone chain, please send your name to the office, indicating you want to be part of the Communication of the Death of Member Phone Chain. As some of you may have multiple phone numbers, please include the phone number to use for the call. Please let the office know by the fourth week in April. The Evangelism and Membership Committee will create the phone chain list and mail out instructions for use. We will initiate the phone call to the first set of people on the list. Those participating will be asked to call the next member in the list. We are targeting to mail out the list of those participating and instructions for the participants, at the beginning of May.



Phone Chain

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

First—A correction to my January report: "Session approved a 2007 Budget of \$405, 756," instead of \$386, 276.

Highlights of the February 26th Session meeting:

Session approved an Offering of Letters for Darfur to be held April, 29th, 2007.

Session approved the following Easter Sunday schedule:

9:15 AM—Easter Morning Breakfast

10:15 AM—One Worship Service

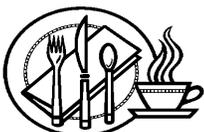
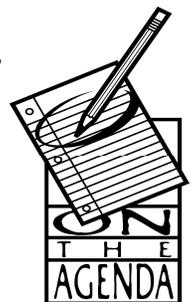
Session approved brass instrumental music at the Easter worship service.

Session authorized expenditure of \$7,000 to restore organ pipes and mechanisms to their original condition.

Session approved a reduction in the number of Elders from 21 to 18. The complete proposal will be presented to the congregation for approval at a regularly scheduled congregational meeting.

The 2007 Youth Work Trip has been rescheduled to begin June 25, 2007.

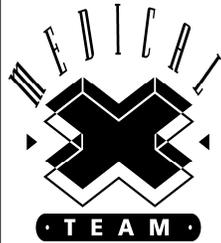
Session approved placement of the 2006 Annual Report in the minutes.



The Bower Hillers

This month's gathering will be at Crowne Plaza on Ft. Couch Road and will be hosted by Jeanne Olsen. Look for your invitation containing more details in the mail.

Church News



CPR and Defibrillator Training—Anne Mitchell

Medical Rescue South is coming to Bower Hill on April 22nd. This is both a new and renewal training class on the Heart Defibrillator and CPR. The class will take place after the second worship service. Please sign up in back of the church or in the church office if you are interested. Lunch will be included. This is a great opportunity for all Bower Hill members and is especially recommended for the ushers.

A Letter From Jay W. Lewis, Stated Clerk, Pittsburgh Presbytery

February 9, 2007

Dear Friends,

We are not unmindful of the time and trouble involved in hosting a meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, and we are deeply grateful to Bower Hill Community, its co-pastors, its officers, staff and volunteers for all of your kindness and support for our meeting there yesterday.

The food was wonderful, the arrangements perfect, the facility spacious, the ushers and guides most helpful, the parking attendants gracious (and nearly frozen), the co-pastors welcoming and attentive, and...the meeting short! Oh, and did I mention that the food was wonderful!

Thanks, Leonard and Laurie, and to all of your staff, officers, volunteers and members for making the day in your church home so special for Presbytery, particularly so when one of your own, Elder David Green, was installed there as our Moderator for the year. Our love and best wishes.

Yours in Christ, Jay W. Lewis



Men's Breakfast Schedule

The group will meet on Wednesday, April 4 at 8 a.m. at King's. From May through October, the group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. From November through May, the group meets the first Wednesday of each month.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

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!

April 17—*What Is The What*, by Dave Eggers, at the home of Nancy Green
May 15—*Water For Elephants*, by Sara Gruen, at the home of Nina Helbling



Good Coffee (and Teas!) for Two Great Causes! —Steve Boisvert

The Presbyterian Coffee Project, part of the *Enough for Everyone* program, supports farmers who grow coffee and tea in coops around the world by guaranteeing a set, fair price for their products. Equal Exchange coordinates the efforts of eight denominations. Bower Hill participates in the project in two ways:

Fellowship Hour serves Fellowship Blend coffees and Fair Trade teas and there is a monthly sale of coffees and teas between services and after the 10:15 service, the second Sunday of the month (April 15 because of Easter). Members of the congregation can buy regular or decaf coffee in drip or regular grind and four teas (Green Tea, Earl Grey, English Breakfast, and now Red Tea)! Coffee comes in 12 oz. bags for \$7.00 and teas are in boxes of 25 teabags for \$3.00.

We do make a small "profit" from the sale which will now be going to support the church's efforts to drill a well in Malawi. Every time you buy coffee or tea now, you are supporting two great causes. Clean water delivered right to our homes is something we take for granted in this community. Clean water in the community is still a dream in much of Malawi. The Presbyterian Coffee Project provides another opportunity to make the dream come true.



Mission News

A Milestone

The East Liberty Family Health Care Center, which Bower Hill has supported for many years, is having a 25th anniversary celebration on Friday, June 8th. There will be dinner at the Renaissance Hotel downtown at 6pm; then an 8pm performance at the nearby Byham Theater by the Grammy Award winning Acapella Soul Artists TAKE 6. Tickets for the entire dinner/concert are \$100 per person, concert tickets alone are available for \$30.



Jim & Joan McAnulty have already organized one table. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact the center at: 412-361-8265.

Hopi Mission: Campbells UPC

—Bill Wegener

BHCC has recently received a mission school newsletter in which they are requesting that the Campbell's UPC Codes contain the adjacent icon featuring the "Labels for Education" tag as shown below. Please make this change when clipping your labels. Thank you.

Church Sponsored Refugees Gain Citizenship



There is another milestone in the Pranjin family journey to America. On February 27th, Josipa and Pero Pranjin became American citizens. Their daughter, Matea, three years old when the family came to Pittsburgh in 1999 as refugees from war-ravaged Bosnia, also became an American citizen as the minor child of naturalized parents.

The naturalization ceremony was attended by Bower Hill Community Church families representing many who supported the Pranjin family as they settled in a Castle Shannon apartment and began their new life in America. Working in conjunction with Catholic Charities, the official sponsor of refugees seeking resettlement, Bower Hill Church provided financial aid and support in many ways. They were met at the airport by a church delegation and taken to an apartment fully furnished and stocked with food by church families. A church committee organized transportation and escorts to the many services initially needed: medical and dental care, job interviews, special language tutoring, learning public transportation and day care options. Within several months, both parents were working and Matea was thriving at St. Anne's Church day care in Castle Shannon. The support system became less vital, but friendship bonds remained strong and help continued with income tax preparation, assistance for a trip to visit family in Europe, school enrollment and the search for a new home.

Today, the family is the embodiment of the American story: opportunity combined with hard work. They have purchased a house on McCully Street in Castle Shannon and with "hands on" improvement, created a real home. Josipa, now in her seventh year of employment at Mellon Financial Services, has learned to drive. Pero is a maintenance worker at an apartment complex in North Hills. Matea is an A student, a bilingual fourth grader, and dances with the Junior Tamburitians. This summer, the family hopes to journey back to Bosnia and Croatia with their new American passports to visit family. But they call Pittsburgh their home.

Food Pantry Collection For April

The Food Pantry appreciates your donations for the month of April. This month's donations of vegetable and fruit juice and diapers will be collected on Sunday, April 8th. Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



Youth & Education News

Youth News For April—Brian Hayes

I have been told by some members of our congregation that the month of April and Spaghetti Dinners have had a wonderful relationship over the years. We will honor this tradition once again this year. The annual mission trip fundraising event known as the Spaghetti Dinner will occur on April 22nd. More information will be disseminated through bulletin communications in the upcoming weeks.

This brings us to the mission trip. The youth department is overjoyed as we now have *twelve* high school students who will be attending the mission trip to San Diego this summer. We deeply thank the congregation for the constant support given through our fundraisers. Our four fundraising efforts have generated \$1000 towards the trip. The parents and I are humbled by the potential which God has granted our church. As members of BHCC, it is breathtaking to consider that maybe we were all led to this place through different spiritual paths. Concurrently, we are all here to enhance the relationships between ourselves, our community and our God. We must always tenaciously attempt to involve the church in community relations as well. During this Easter season, let us embrace the concept of resurrection. This awesome church has an exciting future ahead. This church has far too many good people to let the yoke of complacency take seed. I pray that we excel for the rest of our journey.



Youth Events for April:

4/2/07 @ 7:00 Youth Ministries, Youth Director's Office; **4/15/07 @ 7:00** Youth Meeting; **4/22/07 @ 12:00** Spaghetti Dinner, FH; **4/29/07 @ 11:30** Soup & Sandwich Luncheon, FH; **4/29/07 @ 7:00** Youth Meeting **Every Thursday @ 7:00** in the Youth Director's Office—Senior High Bible Study

Adult Education For April

April 1 Continuation of viewing and discussion of the film "A Closer Walk" – a film about AIDS in the world. A story about the way the world is."



April 8 Easter – no class

April 15 GLBT Inclusion in the Church - The Flashpoint of Marriage. Rev. Janet Edwards will discuss the ongoing debate in the Presbyterian Church about the nature of marriage and GLBT inclusion in it as well as her own experience with the Church's disciplinary process.

April 22 and 29 Generous People – Vera K. White, Director of New Church Development, Stewardship and Committee on Ministry for Pittsburgh Presbytery, will present a workshop for those who are interested in finding out what God has to say about faith and money.

Respond by Remembering and Taking Action!

April 22, 2007 Holocaust Observance Service

Southminster Presbyterian Church (799 Washington Road) will host the service of remembrance in order that we never forget what happened and in hopes that nothing like it will ever happen again!

April 28-29, 2007 Pittsburgh/Tri-State Weekend of Action for Darfur

On April 28th, a march will be held, starting at Freedom Corner, corner of Centre Avenue and Crawford Street, at 2 pm sharp. We will then march to Market Square (1 mile) for a rally 3-5 pm with speakers and entertainment. For information, contact info@pittsburghdarfur.org or 412 371-9447.

Offering of Letters and Candlelight Service: On April 29th join us for an offering of letters after the morning worship services. At 7:30 pm we will be joining with other churches in the community for a Candlelight Service as we pray for peace and healing in Darfur.

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
 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:

Peggy Craig, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
 Catheryn Deemer, Broadmore Assisted Living #205, 3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
 Harry Dunfee, Manor Care, 1848 Greentree Road #323 Pittsburgh, PA 15220
 Ruth Fenton, Asbury Place, 700 Bower Hill Rd., #3737, 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
 Toobie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

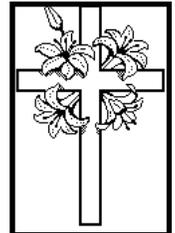
*Let us pray for the
 loved ones of those
 who have died...*

Margaret McKee

February 25

Margery Helm

March 22



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

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

Easter Week Schedule

**Bower Hill Community Church
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
70 Moffett Street, Mt. Lebanon**

**Maundy Thursday Service
April 5th at 7:30pm**

Easter Sunday April 8th

Awakening Breakfast 9:15am

Worship 10:15am with brass ensemble
led by George Vosburgh

412-561-4114

www.bhccml.com



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

THE CHURCH OFFICE

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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.

Pittsburgh, PA

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