

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

# BOWER HILL NEWS

JUNE 2007

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTORS...

Rev. Laurie & Rev. Leonard

Slinging Spaghetti! I remember learning in home economics that the best way to check to see if spaghetti was done was to sling it against a wall to see if it would stick. Several years ago, Leonard shared with the session the idea that part of the role of the session was to be like a spaghetti cook...slinging out different experiences at the church to see if they would stick.

The image continues to dwell in us as the new leadership of the church takes over and as the MAT teams continue their work with the Surfing the Edge information. Perhaps the best thing about the image of sticking spaghetti, is that it reminds us of the joy and challenge of trying new things. It also keeps us from getting overwhelmed when the experiences we try don't seem to stick. Too often we can get caught up in our fear of trying new things. Sometimes our fear can paralyze us. If we keep thinking about spaghetti and if we keep remembering that there is always another pot we can boil, then perhaps we will be bolstered by the good news that there are always more varieties that can be experimented with.

With this in mind, we're going to

be trying some new things in the weeks to come. As Jessica takes over as our Director of Music Ministries, we are going to try worshiping with some different blended songs. As the first MAT team comes to session with its first experiment, we will be involved some new and exciting discussions.

In June and August, we will be offering a new class that explores stories in the Bible, called Love the Story. As the summer continues, we will spend a great deal of time thinking about the different experiences we might like to try in the months ahead. It is our belief that our greatest effort at the present time should be put into opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. The words of prayer that Jesus speaks near the end John's gospel have continued to challenge us, "that they may all be one. As you, Father are in me and I am I you, may they also be in us...The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one." (John 17:21-22) As we look to the future together, our efforts will be centered on experiences that help to make us one. We hope you will help us sling spaghetti by praying for the future of Bower Hill and by offering any ideas. Let's sling spaghetti together!

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## SPECIAL PRAYERS



On Sunday May 6th, the fourth and fifth grade Sunday School Class shared their prayers during the first service. We would like to share them with you here so that you too can witness this amazing and touching offering.

Thank you God for all you give us, like shelter, family and love. You take care of us and I thank you. Thank you for helping us and blessing us every day. Amen. -Nicholas Kane.



Dear God, Thank you for the sun so bright. Thank you for this morning we grasp in the palm of our

hands. Thank you for the birds that chirp. Thank you for everyone here this bright and shining morning and thank you God for each passing day. Amen.

-Morgan Kohler

Dear God, thank you for giving me friends, family, and my pets. I hope that I have made you happy up in heaven. I hope you can make my papaw well who is in the hospital with cancer. Amen. -Nathaniel Mazzini

Dear Lord, give hope to everyone we know and we are glad you give us hope. Amen. -Brittany Maniet

Lord, thank you for the sun, my mom, dad, josh, my dog and fish and my sister and please help the kids of Darfur survive much longer. Amen

-Andrew Spoungle

Happy Sunday God! I bet this is your favorite day because more of us take time to talk to you. Thank you for Sundays, for your commandment to set aside a special day just for you. Thank you for all the people here this morning, who share your love with me. -Abby Waine

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!



As I sit and write this article, I am amazed that by the end of June, the church will be fully staffed! Leonard and I are deeply grateful for the hard work that went into searching for just the right person for each of these positions. The search for a new Director of Music Ministries, a new Secretary and a new Custodian took a great deal of time and we are grateful for the thoughtful and prayerful consideration that was given to each candidate. Words cannot express how

grateful we are to those who helped fill in the gaps during our time of transition. Again we are grateful to Dianne Scott, Tom Flynn, and Elliot Roth. We also very much appreciate the office help supplied by Wendy Mazzini during the month of May.

As previously announced, Jessica Baier will begin her ministry with us as our new Director of Music Ministries on June 1st. The following week Brad Manison will begin his work as our custodian.

Brad's hours will be Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-5pm and Sunday from 8am-12pm. At the end of June, Kim Shetter will begin working as our office Secretary and her hours will be from 9am-3pm Monday-Friday. We are excited about all the gifts that Jessica, Brad and Kim bring to us! Look for more information about Brad and Kim in the next newsletter! Both Kim and Brad will be introduced in worship sometime in June, so let us give them a hearty welcome.

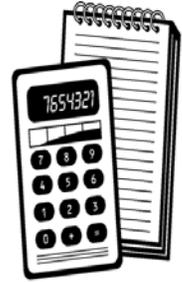
## SHIM BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Most of you are probably looking forward to school soon being over and to a nice, summer break. But SHIM and Bower Hill are in the stages of gearing up for the annual SHIM Back-to-School event on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It is such an important and wonderful event! Imagine not being able to afford to send your kids to school with the supplies that they need. How wonderful that parents who might have faced this dilemma do not need to worry because of the generosity of SHIM and partner churches like Bower Hill.

This year we are asking that you consider buying a calculator to donate to the Back-to-School event. We are hoping to get both standard calculators and the more expensive graphic calculators (TI 83s). If you would like to do the shopping yourself, simply bring your calculator to the church office sometime before July 4<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer, please consider making a financial donation (mark SHIM Back-to-School on your check) and we would be happy to buy the calculators. With financial donations, we can combine many "fractions" to be able to buy several

"whole" TI 83s for the older, High School kids. Please consider making a donation so that the kids have what they need to learn!

Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help at the event, we would love to hear from you. We need about 10 volunteers to help run games, guide kids through the school supplies, scoop sno-cones and make a craft. If you are interested, please call either Betsy Hohlfelder (412-341-1029) or Darendia Lease (412-854-4481.) Helpers are needed from 3:30-6:30.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is almost here! The week is quickly approaching, and this is the time that I begin to wonder if we will be able to get everything done! Our theme this year is: Avalanche Ranch: A wild ride through God's word! So as we make plans for decorations, we are interested in borrowing any western stuff...like cowboy hats, cowboy boots, vests, wagon wheels, bales of hay, giant (stuffed) farm animals, and barrels come to mind.

Also in addition to our wonderful fences that we have used in the past, we will also construct some less permanent fences with cement blocks and cardboard tubes...so if you have any cement blocks to loan us we'd appreciate that as well.

We will again be constructing our paper bag wall, so if you have any large paper grocery bags and newspaper, please drop it off ASAP.

And remember, Bible

School will be held June 25-29 from 9:30am-12pm. We are still looking for volunteers, especially those who have never helped before. There are lots of jobs...from helping with registration on Monday to helping with the picnic on Friday. And we can always use help taking pictures during the week. Whatever your schedule, we'll find a valuable job for you, so see Rev. Laurie or Pam Maniet to sign up to help! Ye Haw! Let the ride begin!



## JUNE & JULY WORSHIP PLANS



### Summer Worship

There are some exciting things going on in worship this summer. As schedules get busy and people start to take vacations, it is our fondest hope that wherever you are, you will take the opportunity to worship. Remember, your pastors love to see bulletins and hear about your experiences in other churches. So come back with your stories...and for those of you who are staying in Mt. Lebanon this summer, we have an exciting line up of speakers and preachers for the upcoming months. In June, the MAT teams that have been working so diligently on the Surfing the Edge information will

be leading us in worship and sharing some of the things they have been working on. Also in June, the Youth will lead us in a wonderful worship celebration before they depart for their mission trip. In July, we will celebrate and share the joy of Vacation Bible School on July 1. Also in July, Pat Albright will return for two Sundays and we Karen Battle, the Director of Justice Ministries and Mission for the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Kate Fletcher, director of Hekima Place will be visiting us to tell us the story of her ministry in Kenya. Don't miss these wonderful speaker:

June 3: Missional Action Teams (MAT) leading worship

June 10: Youth Sunday; Ordination and Installation of Officers

June 17: Rev. Laurie Sponaugle; Baptism

June 24: Rev. Leonard Sponaugle

July 1: VBS Sunday; Rev. Laurie Sponaugle

July 8: Rev. Karen Battle

July 15: Rev. Pat Albright

July 22: Kate Fletcher from Hekima Place, Kenya (see the article about Kate by Erin Hohlfelder on page 5)

July 29: Rev. Pat Albright



### Produce to PEOPLE

## MISSION OPPORTUNITY

Earlier this year, several folks from Bower Hill participated in the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank's Produce to People program. We went up to the South Side of Pittsburgh from 8:00am until 12:30 pm and we helped set up tables,

unload a truck full of food, organize produce into bags, distribute food to people, carry items to people's cars and clean up. It was an amazing day of mission. On Saturday June 23rd, Bower Hill is signed up to assist again. Work requires some lifting and carrying

and volunteers age 12 and older are welcome. If you are interested in helping, please let Rev. Laurie know. Questions can be addressed by Rev. Laurie, John, Karen, Jake and Jonah Zoll, Jean Miewald or Bill Wegener.

## FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry appreciates your donations for June! This month's donations will be collected

on Sunday, June 10th. Donations of detergent, low sugar cereal, and toilet paper are suggested.

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



### Pantry Needs

## A NOTE FROM ERIN HOHLFELDER

It is easy to say “I wish I could make a difference,” but it is far more challenging to get up off of the couch or out of the pew and do so on a daily basis. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, you are all invited to attend church and meet Kate Fletcher, a woman who selflessly impacts the lives of 43 female AIDS orphans in Kenya each day. Kate, a former Mt. Lebanon resident, was moved by the plight of female orphans in

Africa, and in 2005 started Hekima Place, a home for girls affected by the pandemic. Unlike most orphanages, Hekima Place does more than provide food and shelter for its residents; additionally, the girls receive access to medical care, counseling services, a supportive home life, and most critically quality education. For the last month of my semester abroad in Kenya, I had the privilege of living and

working with Kate at Hekima Place. There, I was incredibly moved by the girls’ accounts of how their lives have changed because of Hekima Place, as well as by Kate’s drive, passion, and faith. I am so honored to be able to introduce her to the Bower Hill community, and I know you will all consider yourselves lucky for having heard and met her.

-Erin Hohlfelder



## 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! In June, we will meet on June 19, to discuss the book, *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. Location: Betsy Hohlfelder’s. The July meeting will be held

on July 17, and the discussion will be on the book *Spot of Bother* by Mark Haddon. Location: Margaret Zabo’s. Come and join us! You’ll be glad you did!



## GREETERS AND FELLOWSHIP TIME HOSTS FOR JUNE

### Greeters:

June 3: Jeanne Olsen

June 10: Youth

June 17: Curt and Kathy  
Philson

June 24: Richard Rothrock

July 1: The Schofield  
Family

### **Summer Greeters**

#### **Be Aware**

We messed up, (I messed up) when sending out the letter for the summer greeters. I forgot to change the time for the combined service. Please change the time of the service on the list of greeters to 9:30 am and arrive before that time to greet.

Thanks.—Glenn Child

### Fellowship Time Hosts:

June 3: Marian Brannan  
& Party for Elliot

June 10: Chuck & Betsy  
Prine

June 17: Open

June 24: Open

July 1: Open

Please sign up!



**Fellowship Time**



## Love the Story

### LOVE THE STORY

At the Preaching Conference that Leonard and I attended in May, there was a wonderful speaker who talked about the Church and the challenge of biblical literacy. She mentioned that often churches tend to focus more on teaching the Bible so that people gain information, which is a wonderful thing. However, this endeavor has often led people to miss out on the wonderful stories of the Bible and the truth that they offer to our lives. She further

challenged that we should consider how we as the church can help people to love the stories of the Bible again.

As a person who loves stories, her words of course made me think...what if we offered a class that gave people an opportunity to share and explore and enter into the biblical stories. With that in mind, in June and August, we are offering a short, informal class called Love the Story. This is not a class for anyone who wants to study the Bible

and gain a comprehensive biblical knowledge of a certain book or theme. It is however a class that will invite participants to bring their favorite stories so that together we can explore them. At the first class we will spend some time sharing and composing a list of stories to explore together. This list will be used to choose the stories for the following weeks. This is a class you can attend one week or every week. So check it out after worship on June 10, 17 and 24.

### YOUTH NEWS



We are at an exciting crossroads. I hope that our congregation can share in the enthusiasm which is coursing through the youth department. Our fundraising efforts for 2007 have concluded with the finale being our 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast. We want to deliver a special thank you to **Iovino's Café** for their generosity in sponsoring the breakfast. We also thank the parents of our *Mission Students* for their time and contributions.

It was amazing to see our church offering itself as a vehicle to serve the surrounding community.

Part of the breakfast attendance came from people who were outside the congregation. I pray that our church may continue to be involved with our community and, in turn, grow into a satellite revolving around the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Having met our fundraising goal, we now prepare to embark on the journey to San Diego. We are deeply grateful to the members of our congregation who have volunteered their time as chaperones: Judy Lunoe, Tim Lease, and Jason Rising. Please keep them

in your prayers as they face the unpredictable challenges delivered through the medium of leadership. We as a congregation are extremely lucky to have students and parents with such earnest hearts. A trip to San Diego, although exciting, contains vast responsibilities. The kids had to work hard to meet a giant fundraising goal. That goal resulted in a myriad of events which, in turn, uplifted the church and its members. Youth Sunday, on June 10th, will crystallize the emotional content of these circumstances.

## CARE LIST

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  
 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  
 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  
 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  
 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  
 loved ones of those  
 who have died:

Diane Leeson  
 5/7/07

Ruth Fenton  
 5/12/07

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP: ELDERS & DEACONS

### Elders Class of 2008

Christine Henney  
 Pat Jacobs  
 Matt Maniet  
 Pam Maniet  
 Margie Sewall  
 Jason Rising  
 Dan Zabo

### Elders Class of 2009

Bill Cadwell  
 Debby Hayes  
 Nina Helbling  
 Phil Johnson  
 Lou Mazzini  
 Jean Miewald

### Elders Class of 2010

Glenn Child  
 Denny Geis, Jr.  
 George Vosburgh  
 John Zoll

### Deacons Class of 2008

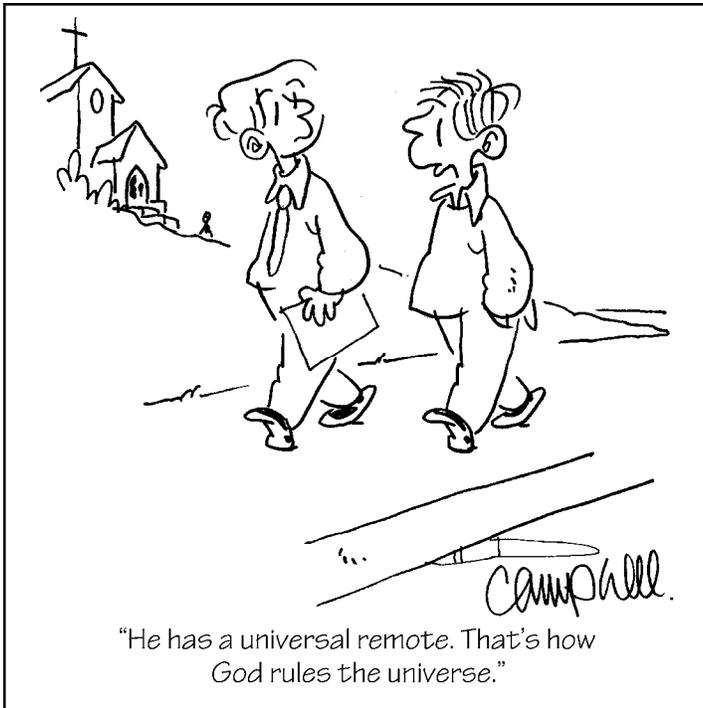
Marian Brannan  
 Betty Chidlow  
 Barbara Hughes  
 Kathy Philson  
 Carolyn Westerhoff

### Deacons Class of 2009

Elaine Dalmaso  
 Mary Good  
 Ben Hohlfelder  
 Phyllis Yohe  
 Margaret Zabo

### Deacons Class of 2010

Theresa Child  
 Nancy Geis  
 Tom Hayes  
 Kate Junker  
 Linda Johnson



**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries

Brian Hayes, Director of Youth Ministries

br@bhccml.com

Brad Manison, Custodian

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary

di@bhccml.com

Rev Laurie Sponaugle, Co-Pastor

la@bhccml.com

Rev Leonard Sponaugle, Co-Pastor

le@bhccml.com

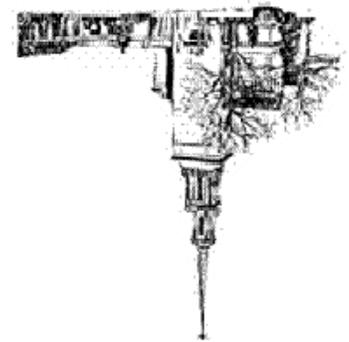
Kim Shetter, Secretary

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00am—3:00 pm

BOVER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
A PLACE TO BELIEVE, BELONG & BECOME



E-mail: office@bhccml.com

Fax: 412-561-2252

Phone: 412-561-4114

70 Moffett Street

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