

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

BOWER HILL NEWS

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTORS...

AUGUST 2007

Thinking About Worship

If you're like most people, you spend very little time thinking about why you worship. On Sunday morning, you just show up and do it without thought. When I was growing up in the church, I usually attended worship. Looking back, I'm not sure why. Some mornings I showed up delighted to be there, some mornings I was so tired I didn't pay much attention. I never gave much thought to how things were put together or the purpose of why I was there. Worship was just something I did.

At seminary, I attended a worship class where we were asked the question, Who is the audience for worship? Well of course the way that the sanctuary is designed and where the attention is focused, the first thought that entered my mind was the congregation is the audience. My seminary professor was quick to point out...wrong answer! He explained that the audience for worship is God. That revelation is probably not too shocking, as worship is naturally a time to focus on God, to be attentive to God's voice through scripture, prayer, music and the word. Even though it's not shocking, think about what that means. If God is the audience then rather than asking the question do I like this song or prayer? A more helpful question would be, is this offering of music or prayer pleasing to God?

Keeping in mind what the purpose of worship is can transform the worship experience for us as we are mindful of how we are offering ourselves to God. As we come to worship, are we attempting to tune into God's presence and power? As we come to worship are we opening ourselves to what God has to say? As we come to worship are we praying for those who lead and for the community that is around us? As we come to worship, are we offering our best to God or are we too distracted, annoyed, or worried to be present?

Thinking about worship can make the experience of worship more significant. This is one of the reasons we placed headings in the bulletin as a reminder that worship is about God and our experience with God. We begin with the Experience of Coming Before God as we gather together, we move to the Experience of God's Forgiveness and Reconciliation as we are reminded of our need for God and reconciliation, then we move to the Experience of Hearing God's Word which prompts us into the Experience of Responding to God's Word, until finally, we move to the Experience of Being Sent into the World to Act on God's Behalf. As we gather together in the weeks ahead let us continue to think about what we are doing and why we are doing it. And let us wonder together if our worship is pleasing to God!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
YOUTH WORK TRIP	2
KOINONIA MISSION AND MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY	3
MINUTE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE CALCULATOR DRIVE	4
A SPECIAL THANK YOU FLEA MARKET FROM OUR MAILBOX FOOD PANTRY	5
CHURCH DIRECTORY MUSIC NOTES GREETERS COFFEE HOUR HOSTS	6
CARE LIST ELDERS & DEACONS	7
HUMOR STAFF INFORMATION	8

YOUTH WORK TRIP FROM BRIAN



We went on an amazing trip to San Diego. It was a learning experience, a spiritual revival, and a community of fellowship. Our group was divided into three for our daily mission sites. Each of us visited a Head Start classroom for the first half of the day. The children we worked with were in preschool. The classroom was bilingual, something we were not accustomed to. We had some wonderful teachers who were eager to educate us, as well as the children. We started the day with story time. I remember being teased by the children when I tried to read a book to them in Spanish. We then engaged the classroom with activity and craft time. The day concluded with recess. My group became so compassionately close with the children that it was very hard to leave them on the last day. We had an emotional and adorable hugging ceremony to close the week.

The second half of the day was starkly different. Each of our three groups went to a different site. One site was a social program called Special Delivery. This organization focuses on care giving to people living with AIDS. The mission at this site was to help make care packages for the patients. Some of our students took it upon themselves to organize the vast materials being stored at the facility. The overriding lesson here was to remember the significance of little things. Whether it was a simple care package or the task of rearranging cleaning supplies, our group learned that sometimes influence comes in small packages.

Another group was put to work. Heavy lifting and fast moving is the brief description of this group's job. The site was a rescue mission warehouse. The project is similar in style to the Washington City Mission warehouse, which the kids had worked within the past. The kids got to see the difference in scale of a rescue mission for a city as big as San Diego. The homeless population in San Diego alone is about fifteen thousand. This contrast served as an enlightening experience as the kids tirelessly worked to organize the donations.

My group went to an urban fitness center called the Lord's Gym. The gym serves as a day camp for the surrounding urban population. I was amazed to learn that some children were not allowed to attend the day camp because gang territories. That is a factor which has to be taken seriously, since the strictly urban environment is very tense to begin with. There were so many children, most between the ages of seven and fourteen. The gym had a dwindling number of staff members and a growing number of kids. Not sure what to do with us, the director left it up to the church leaders to organize activities for the kids. By the end of the week, the girls were leading two sessions consisting of arts and crafts as well as a dancing instruction program. The guys led a workout session that was followed by boxing, basketball, and football training. After the first day, the leaders took a step back and let the students run the show. It was beyond inspiring to witness the assertion of the Holy Spirit flowing from our high school students to the children.

The week concluded with a trip to the beach and then a trip to the famous zoo. Our kids found themselves in deep gratitude for our church and our congregation. It is their desire to further communicate their appreciation through a special worship service that will occur next month. If anyone would like to learn more about the trip or our youth group, feel free to contact me through email (br@bhccml.com) or the church office.

KOINONIA

Koinonia is the name of the Bower Hill Women's Bible Study group. We meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 until 10:30 in the Lounge. Koinonia is a Greek word meaning "fellowship." While we come together to learn and to deepen our faith, equally important is the friendship and fellowship that we share with one another. **Every year we look forward to adding new members to our group, so why not give it a try this year?** A strong biblical background is not required ...all you need is a desire to learn and to grow.

Koinonia will resume this fall on **September 12**. We will be using Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster, to guide our discussions. Devotions by C.S. Lewis, St. Augustine, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Evelyn Underhill and Soren Kierkegaard are included, to name a few. As Richard Foster writes, these devotions "aim at transformation of the human personality. They seek to touch the heart, to address the will, to mold the mind. They call for radical character formation. They instill holy habits." Sounds like we should have a lot to discuss!

Please join us! If you are interested, give Betsy Hohlfelder a call at 412-341-1029 so that she can order you a book and answer any questions you might have about Koinonia.



MISSION AND MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITY

Those who knew and loved Diane Leeson knew how much SHIM and young children meant to her. Diane spent her professional career in New Mexico and Pittsburgh working with preschoolers. The Mission and Outreach Committee, of which Diane was a faithful and tireless member, invites the congregation to participate in a mission project that will benefit SHIM and families with children ages birth to five years old. The Family Intervention Center is located in a small apartment in Prospect Park in Whitehall. Most of the families served are immigrants who are benefiting from assistance in learning to assimilate into American culture and how to prepare youngsters to enter school ready to learn. The center has a full-time staff person and soon will expand. There is also a pre-school located in the same building. While the pre-school is furnished and inviting, the Family Intervention Center is in need of paint, carpeting, and serviceable furniture.

Bower Hill Community Church has scheduled three days in September to redecorate the center. There are three opportunities to help out with this project: Saturday morning, September 22 from 8:00 AM – noon, Sunday afternoon, September 23 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM, and Saturday, September 29 from 8:00 AM until we are done in the afternoon. A wide variety of skills are needed. We need painters, carpet puller-uppers, shelf builders, seamstresses, someone(s) to turn a bathtub into a diaper-changing station, and creative thinkers. Mission and Outreach will provide the paint, tools, and materials; you can provide the labor of love.

No one is expected to work all three days. Pick one or more as your schedule allows. Directions will be made available as we get closer. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide a warm and inviting place for new arrivals to our country and families who need assistance in learning how to give their children the head start every child needs and deserves. If she could, Diane would surely be in the thick of things. Mission and Outreach invites you to keep the work so close to her heart going strong.



MINUTE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

If you were able to attend church on July 8, you will recall that we have begun to share a monthly "Minute for Making a Difference." Each month during worship a different member of our congregation will talk about something they do to help someone in our community or in the world at large. By sharing our ideas and experiences we hope to encourage and inspire one another. Sometimes the only thing that prevents someone from getting involved is having a specific idea of how to help. Our monthly "Minutes" and follow_up newsletter articles should help in this regard.

In July, I spoke about an organization called Kiva that helps to facilitate loans to the working poor. As Nicholas Kristof wrote in the New York Times, Kiva allows you to help fight

poverty by "sitting down at your computer and becoming a microfinancier." Here is how it works. Log onto www.kiva.org, and on any given day, Kiva has nearly 100 business opportunities to lend money in countries from Azerbaijan to Vietnam. Businesses can range from a simple produce stand to a small retail outlet. All you simply do is choose a business that you would like to support. Kiva partners with existing microfinance institutions around the world that are experts in choosing qualified borrowers. You can make a loan using your credit card for as little as \$25. Most loans are for 6-12 months. Periodically you will hear back from the business you sponsor to update you on their progress and inform you of your payments. When your Kiva loan is repaid,

you can choose to withdraw your funds or lend to a new business.

Why is this important? In poor countries, commercial lenders often charge interest rates of several hundred percent per year! Your loan might be the working capital an individual needs to break the cycle of poverty and to be able to provide for his/her family. Betsy and I feel privileged to have made \$25 loans to a carpenter in Nicaragua who is using the money to buy needed tools and also to a mother of five children in Samoa who is buying a deep freezer so that she can stock more perishables for her grocery store. These may seem like small amounts to us but it can make a world of difference to the recipients. It's also a nice way to help empower someone who otherwise would never get the opportunity.



Minute for
Making a Difference

CALCULATOR DRIVE

Many thanks to the generous members of our congregation who contributed to the calculator drive for the upcoming SHIM Back to School event. Five calculators were purchased and brought to the church office and \$1050 in donations was received. In total we were able to donate 47 calculators to SHIM, including 11 TI 83+ graphing calculators that retail for \$100 each! These are particularly difficult for SHIM families to afford, but are important for use in upper High School classes.

Once again thank you for coming through in such a wonderful way!



**THANK
YOU!**

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Most members of Bower Hill can't remember a time when the flea market wasn't run expertly by Jean Grabow. That's because she's been in charge of the event for more than 20 years. Recently, I sat down with Jean to get some advice on how to run this year's flea market. I found her tips practical (hold the sale the **S a t u r d a y** before Thanksgiving, it's easier to get helpers), timesaving

(keep a box of supplies such as pens, markers, scissors, tape, etc. so you're not constantly searching for often used items), and useful (her knowledge of pricing is priceless). It was easy to see why the flea market always ran so smoothly. She showed me pictures of flea markets past (did you know the flea market used to be held in the Chapel) as I munched on the home baked cookies she had set

out for me. I was touched to learn that the reason the money earned by the flea market is used to fix up the church (last year it was used to fix the roof and gutters on Fellowship Hall) is to honor the many years of service by her husband, Bob and my grandfather, Holly, on the Building and Grounds committee. Thank you, Jean, for your many years of hard work and dedication to both the Flea Market and Bower Hill.



FLEA MARKET NEWS

This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 17. Collection will begin immediately. PLEASE Do not include clothes, books or large furniture. All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be

dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours, (9:00am-3:00pm, Monday through Friday) or Sunday after worship on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. In an effort to share the load in getting ready for the Flea

Market, there will be sign up sheets to help at different points in the process. If you can help on a regular basis, please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.



FROM OUR MAILBOX

Bower Hill Community Church,

We thank you for the lovely flowers and cards we have received. Harry is home again, thank God. He is happy to rest a little more. Thank you all for your prayers, cards and visits.

Sincerely, Harry & Jean Dunfee



FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry appreciates your donations for August! This month's donations will be collected on Sunday, August 12th. Donations of peanut butter, tuna, canned fruit and pasta are critically low and are suggested. Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please remember to sign up for your picture for the church directory.

The Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait Viewing Are:

Thursday, August 9th from 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Friday, September 14th from 3:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday, September 15th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

If you have questions, please contact Jean Miewald at (412) 221-2114.

MUSIC NOTES FROM JESSICA

Our music ministry under the direction of Jessica Baier provides music at our worship services. **New members are always welcome.** Please contact Jessica, the Director of Music Ministries.

All ensemble rehearsals will take place in the choir room.

Here are the dates of the first rehearsals:

King's Kids Clappers:
Wednesday, September 5,
2007, at 4.30 pm

Bell Choir: Thursday,
Sept. 6, 2007, at 6.30 pm

Chancel Choir: Thursday,
Sept. 6, 2007, at 7.45 pm

Bell Choir

The Bell choir is for adults and high school students. We practice at 6:30 pm Thursdays in the choir room and play once a month on Sunday during Worship.

Chancel Choir

The Chancel choir is for adults and high school students. We practice at 7:45 pm Thursdays and 9:45 am before the 10:15 Sunday Worship service. We sing each Sunday at the 10:15 am service and at special concerts on Sunday **a f t e r n o o n s .**

**C o n t e m p o r a r y
W o r s h i p S e r v i c e**
We are always looking for

individuals to assist in providing music for the 9 am Contemporary Worship Service. This can be vocal or instrumental—please let Jessica know if you are interested.

Instrumentalist

Opportunities are available for instrumentalists to play many times during the church year. Let Jessica know if you are interested.

King's Kids Clappers

All kids from 2nd grade to jr. high are invited to join the King's Kids Clappers. The KKC meets on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the choir room to learn and play the hand chimes.

GREETERS FOR AUGUST

Greeters:

August 5: Betty and Bob Winnett

August 12: Bill and Nancy Andrews

August 19: Andrejs and Inese Baumhammers

August 26: Bob and Joan Bridges

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

August 5: Bob and Joan Bridges

August 12: The Schardt Family

August 19: Carolyn and Dick Westrhoff

August 26: The Zoll Family



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

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

Steve Boisvert
 Glenn Child
 Denny Geis, Jr.
 Alan Hohlfelder
 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

je@bhccml.com

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

Kimberly Shetter, Administrative Secretary

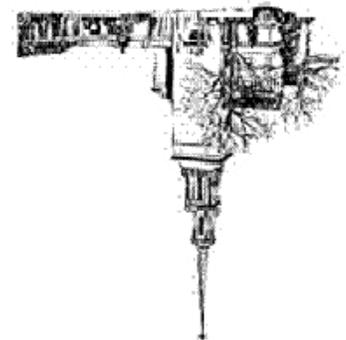
ki@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00am—3:00 pm

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



BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243
Phone: 412-561-4114
Fax: 412-561-2252
E-mail: office@bhccml.com

WWW.BHCCML.COM
WE'RE ON THE WEB

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2335