

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

# BOWER HILL NEWS

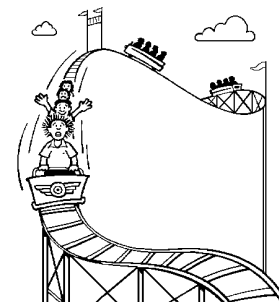
LEARNING TO PRAY BY REV. LAURIE

OCTOBER 2007

In the past few weeks I have been in a number of different situations where the topic of prayer has come up. It is no wonder that prayer is on my mind as I have been thinking about it in the following places: at the session retreat in August which focused on the book, *Becoming a Blessed Church* by N. Graham Standish; at the Session meetings that have followed; at Koinonia as we explore the book *Devotional Classics*, edited by Richard J. Foster; and in my own study of Jane E Vennard's book *a praying congregation*. It is as if God has been hitting me with a two by four and saying talk about this! So, I am.

Perhaps I needed to be hit in the head a few times to spur me on to talk about prayer as it is one of the most emotion laden and intimate things that we do as people of faith. It is hard to talk about prayer because at one time or another we have probably all struggled with a challenging prayer life. For me, prayer has been something that I have constantly had to struggle with. I remember in seminary going to the head of the Spirituality department to ask if I could be part of the Spirituality Concentration with much fear and trembling. I remember confessing in tears how difficult I found it to pray and how much of a failure I felt like as a second year student with an abysmal prayer life. So began a difficult but richer journey into prayer for me. However, the struggle has not ending. Prayer for me is like a roller coaster ride and I have been so blessed by the discussions that have been taking place about prayer and spiritual development in recent days.

One of the best gifts I have gained over these last few weeks came from Jane E. Vennard's book, *a praying congregation*. As she talks about prayer, she encourages the reader to get in touch with how they learned to pray. She writes, "Those early lessons, whether in childhood or later, are the foundation on which your present prayer life rests." (p.23) As we reflect on these lessons or memories, we can gain amazing insights into what we believe about prayer (sometimes without realizing it). Perhaps we were taught that God is anxious to hear all our prayers or that only certain prayers are ok. Perhaps we were taught that there is a certain way we have to pray or we were given the gift of freedom to pray as we felt led. Perhaps we observed someone praying with joy or pain or fear or anger and that example informs our prayer life. As I was considering my own experiences and memories of being taught to pray, I realized that somewhere I picked up the fear of boring God or frustrating God with my simple and selfish prayers. The thought just tumbled out without my realizing it. Did I really think that? I realized that yes, I usually do filter my prayers, without even realizing it. My prayers were often held back because I reasoned that there are so many big things that God has to worry about, why should I bother God with my fears or concerns. You can't imagine how freeing it was to let down the filter with the reminder that God wants to hear all our prayers. God loves us so much that God wants to know about all that we care and worry about, all that we celebrate and fear. As a parent, I don't just want my kids to talk to me about what is "important" I want to know everything. Hopes, fears, dreams, desires, needs, everything! So, maybe you already know that God wants to hear it all...but I challenge us all in the days ahead to think of a few prayer experiences and wonder about what lessons you might have picked up along your spiritual journey. I hope that your discovery might be as enlightening as mine and that your prayer life may be enhanced by your reflections.



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## YOUTH GROUP NEWS BY BRIAN HAYES



### Youth Group News

This congregation has a great group of kids. Inspired by their older counterparts, the Middle School Youth Group (whose name abbreviates to *Middies*) wanted to participate in a mission-oriented event. This motivation led to the decision to have a food drive as a Middie event to kick off the new school year. We got together on September 8<sup>th</sup> and distributed fliers to the local neighborhoods. These fliers informed the residents that we would be back on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to pick up all donations. So, the Middies took time out of their Saturday morning to scurry around the neighborhood by neighborhoods and collect the generous contributions. It took a long time to collect everything! I spent over an hour cruising the streets. When it was all said and done there was enough food collected to fill the bed of my truck (which is 90 inches long!).

The Youth are now also on the church's website ([www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)). The "Youth" category can be found in the *About Us* section of the web page. In addition to the brand new pictures from the Middies' Food Drive, there are also pictures available from the High School Mission Trip to San Diego as well as some of the other past events at our church. The church's web site can also be utilized to find information about previous or upcoming Youth events.

### October Youth Events:

October 7 & 21 H.S. Flea Market Pricing after worship (following 10:30 Worship)

October 7 H.S. Breakfast at Denny's after Flea Market Pricing

October 7 H.S. Late Night Bowling 8:00 p.m.—12 midnight (meet at the church)

October 14: Middies Haunted House 7:30 p.m. (meet in the church parking lot)

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## MINUTE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY JEAN MIEWALD

Two months ago Alan told us about a way to provide microlending to third world entrepreneurs with a WEB based program called KIVA. Today I am going to talk about another way you can invest...a program that Bill and I participate in called OIKOCREDIT.



### Minute for Making a Difference

Founded by a large group of churches in 1975, Oikocredit is an international organization whose mission is to promote social and economic justice by providing opportunities for churches, religious organizations and individuals to make some of their investment dollars available for empowering economically disadvantaged people with credit. Oikocredit makes low-interest loans to more than 400 cooperatives and microcredit institutions in over 65 countries. Oikocredit does not ask for donations. They ask us to invest our money with them. The minimum investment is \$1000 and the investor specifies the interest rate, up to 2% and the term length... from 1 to 5 years.

Many people believe that poor people will not repay their loans. In the last 28 years, Oikocredit has never failed to return to investors their full principal plus interest. Poor communities, cooperatives, and microcredit organizations prefer credit to grants because credit provides people with more decision-making power, more independence, more responsibility and more dignity.

If you are interested in learning more about microlending and Oikocredit, please plan to attend adult ed on the first two Sundays in October. You can also talk to Bill or me for more information.

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

“Draw us in the Spirit’s tether; for when humbly in Thy name,  
Two or three are met together; Thou art in the midst of them.”

(Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, Harold W. Friedell)

These words are taken from the anthem we are singing on October 7, World Communion Sunday. The words are also found in scripture: Matthew 18:20 says, “For where two or three are gathered in My Name, I am there among them.” I have always taken these words to heart, and remember them often during Sunday morning worship, when I’m having a meaningful discussion with a good friend, and most of all, during choir and handbell rehearsals.



In his book Rehearsing the Soul, Terry York describes “family” as an environment in which we learn to handle joys and jealousies, sorrows and celebrations, hugs and hassles. We use the term family in such a broad sense, not just to describe those who are related to us, but in terms of groups who have common interests, commitment, geography, etc. In our own worship service on September 9, many people stated that Bower Hill Community Church is a huge family of believers, and I have come to believe that myself.

“Where two or three are gathered in My Name, I am there among them.” That certainly covers duets, quartets, and surely the three musical ensembles we have in this place. Being aware of Jesus’ presence has an effect on families that are centered on Him. Christ’s presence forces us to remember His teachings and life example. Seeing ourselves and one another through Jesus’ eyes will cause us to be closer and more loving. That helps the music we produce. It is as if the Holy Spirit hums along, adding a spiritual pedal point to our harmony. The Holy Spirit can take our one song and customize the hearing of it for the application needed in each heart in the church family. Look around at those in the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, and the King’s Kids Clappers. They are family. Jesus died for each of them and promised to sit in with the group. We need to enjoy the fellowship. We need to be in awe of God’s grace. We need to be aware of Jesus’ presence, and thank God for the family.

**King’s Kids Clappers** - Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m.

**Handbell Choir** - Thursdays at 6.30 p.m.

**Chancel Choir** - Thursdays at 7.45 p.m.

You are all invited to join our musical family here at BHCC.

~Jessica

## BOOKWORMS BY MARGARET ZABO

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 October, we will meet on October 16, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book, *Peony in Love* by Lisa See. We will meet at the home of Carolyn Phillippe. Come and join us! You’ll be glad you did!



## REFLECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 9TH WORSHIP BY BETSY HOHLFELDER

The worship service on September 9<sup>th</sup> surpassed our (Mission Action Team #2) expectations and we hope yours. Our thanks to all who shared their experiences of God working through Bower Hill Community Church. We also appreciate those of you who by listening were moved by the memories. Our committee anticipated that the morning would remind us of God's purpose for our church and a future direction. Surely, having a better sense of who we are and what God has shown us to value will help us reach out to the community. (Reminder - Our mission is to address the question of how to attract the busy, over-committed people of our community.) We gleaned from the conversations that:



1. We value our caring church family. We can depend on the nurturing and giving nature of our fellow members.
2. We find fellowship through mission activities meaningful. We feel called to serve God beyond our walls.
3. We embrace diversity of views and being open-minded.

Where do we go from here? Our early thoughts (emphasis on early!) include two recommendations. (1) Each Sunday include a moment for worshippers to share their "God sightings." Let's always remember and celebrate that God is in our midst. (2) Promote inter-generational mission opportunities. Encourage one another to be active members in mission. Invite friends and neighbors to join in the projects too.

We welcome your feedback. Any one of us would love to continue the dialogue with you. Where do you see God leading His church on Moffett Street?

Betsy Hohlfelder, Mary Good, Rick Jacobs, Tim Lease, Jean Miewald, & Lori Schofield

## UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>October 7</b>  | <p><b>OIKOCREDIT/SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING</b><br/>Charlotte Lott from Oikocredit<br/>Psalm 15:5 – They make loans without charging interest and cannot be bribed to testify against the innocent. Whoever does these things will always be secure.</p>   |
| <b>October 14</b> | <p><b>OIKOCREDIT/SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING</b><br/>Charlotte Lott</p>   |
| <b>October 21</b> | <p><b>ADDRESSING LANGUAGE AND THE POPULAR CULTURE OF FALSE WITNESS; HOW CAN WE DO THIS WITH TRUTH, LOVE AND COMPASSION?</b><br/>Wanda Guthrie from the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Network of Spiritual Progressives<br/>Proverbs 10:11 – A good person's words are a fountain of life, but a wicked person's words hide a violent nature.</p> |
| <b>October 28</b> | <p><b>ADDRESSING LANGUAGE AND THE POPULAR CULTURE</b><br/>Wanda Guthrie, Spiritual Progressives</p>  |
| <b>November 4</b> | <p><b>HOW THE BIBLE CAME TO BE</b><br/>Professor Jim Davison from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary<br/>Ephesians 5:19 – Speak to one another with the words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts.</p>   |



*Adult Education*

## FLEA MARKET NEWS BY THERESA CHILD

This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 17. Collection are underway. 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 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or Sunday after worship. If you are able please take all items directly upstairs to the loft, otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.



## CELEBRATING...SEASONS OF LIFE. GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS!

A Camp Crestfield retreat for *Senior Adults* (age 55 and over) Tuesday and Wednesday, October 16 and 17, 2007 10:30 a.m. Tuesday – 2:00 p.m. Wednesday. Transportation will be provided from central locations at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, returning to those same locations at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Some accommodations in Scott Lodge are handicapped accessible. The cost of the retreat is \$50.00 a person. This price includes one night of lodging, 4 meals, snacks workshops and other activities. (A limited number of scholarships are available).

For more information or to register, please contact Darlene or Becky at Camp Crestfield, 724-794-4022 You are invited to Camp Crestfield for a retreat that includes inspirational workshops, worship and hymn singing, a hayride, cider and s'mores, crafts, games and a movie as we celebrate life's seasons: Spring – a season of growth / Summer – a season of rest/ Fall – a season of change/ Winter – a season of challenge



## FALL FESTIVAL BY REV. LAURIE

The Evangelism and Membership Committee asked the Hunger Action Team if they were interested in holding another fall festival this year. The response was an enthusiastic YES, and plans are underway to hold a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 27th. The Festival will begin at 4pm with activities and dinner will be served at 5pm. Last year we brought in a speaker to talk about hunger, but this year the festival will be more focused on gathering in fellowship and outreach to the community. We plan to have the Global Gift fair, Alternative Gifts, a Chili Dinner with empty bowls (and proceeds will go to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank), activities for children and a hands on mission project. As you can imagine, help is most definitely needed: making chili and cornbread; helping with kids activities; setting up and cleaning up. Sign up sheets will be available in the narthex on Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> or see me if you are interested in getting involved. Let's make this a real Bower Hill **community** effort...and don't forget to invite your friends! The cost for dinner is \$10 with an empty bowl or \$5 without!



### Organ Recital

Jessica M. Baier, organist

Sunday, October 14, 2007

2pm

Bower Hill Community Church

## BOWER HILLERS BY JEAN GRABOW



### Bower Hillers Luncheon

The Bower Hillers will be having a luncheon on Wednesday, October 24, 2007 at 12:00 noon at Peters Place. John Yohe, will be the guest speaker and will be speaking about how "Funny things can happen in church." You will have the following choice of menu items:

1). Stuffed Pork Chops 2). Kelly Chicken 3). Boston Scrod. Also, included will be Wedding Soup and a Sundae for dessert. The cost for the luncheon will be \$17.75 per person. We would love to have you join us. New members are always welcome. Please contact Jean Grabow to R.S.V.P. at (412) 343-4396 by September 15.

## MIRYAM'S HOUSE GREEN GROCERS NEEDED! BY SUSAN AND DAVE HICKS



### GREEN GROCERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to join the list of those members who, just one Sunday per month or less, hop in their SUV, station wagon or truck, pick up produce from Giant Eagle and deliver it to Miryam's House. Miryam's House is a shelter for homeless and mentally ill women and is located near Mellon Arena.

It takes little time and is a great way to include your family in this "feel good" Mission project. Both at Giant Eagle and at Miryam's there are helping hands available to lift, load and unload the produce for you. It's easy. You can be added to the monthly or substitute list. Remember that "many hands make light of work." What a wonderful way to contribute!

Please contact Dave or Susan Hicks at 412-833-7753.

## HARVEST DAY AT CAMP CRESTFIELD



Harvest Day at Camp Crestfield is Sunday October 7! Please join us for a special day of celebration of God's abundant blessings. Festivities begin at 2:00 PM and end with a praise and worship service at 5:30 PM. Bring your family, youth group, children, and friends! Enjoy hayrides, canoeing, pumpkin and face painting, scarecrow stuffing, cotton candy, plenty of food and many other planned activities. It is a day you won't want to miss! Admission is free and there are nominal costs for food and pumpkins. Call 724-794-4022 for more information

## FOOD BANK COLLECTION BY JASON RISING



### Food Bank Needs

The food pantry appreciates your donations for October! This month's donations will be collected on Sunday, October 14th. Donations of canned beans (kidney, black, navy) and tuna and canned salmon packed in water are suggested. Please contact Jason Rising at 412-851-1503, jaydr@adelphia.net, for more information.

There are also opportunities to help out at the food bank! Check out their website at [www.pittsburghfoodbank.org](http://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org) to volunteer for the fall food share or let Rev. Laurie know if you are interested in helping out at the next Produce to People on November 3rd from 8am-12 pm.

## KIDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY REV. LAURIE

Andrew and Josh often have this overwhelming desire to help people and believe it or not, I often struggle with what they can do that's significant, as the funds from a Lemonade Stand on Sylvandell probably would not be too great. But one thing I know they can do is Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF. I remember the excitement of Halloween and the joy of carrying around the little orange box to collect for people in need. For fifty-seven years, UNICEF has helped kids to be involved in making a difference with their Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF program and for 4 years now, we have given out boxes at Bower Hill. I love this program! **By Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF, kids learn the importance of helping others in need and are empowered to make a real difference.** And this year it's easier than ever for your children to celebrate Halloween while becoming a real world hero for UNICEF. Explore the UNICEF site at [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org) and visit the [Download Center](#) for an Activity Calendar and other easy-to-use resources to help support your child's efforts and show them they can make a difference through this beloved Halloween campaign. And check out how big of a difference just a little donation can make!



### **What your donation can buy:**

6 cents provides water for a thirsty kid; \$1 can immunize a child against measles for life; \$2 provides nutrition to three hungry kids; \$12 can buy 20 packets of high-protein biscuits to feed malnourished children; \$17 can immunize one child for life against the six leading child-killing diseases; \$24 can provide 4 mosquito nets, protecting children from Malaria.

## NEW AND IMPROVED PICTURES AND AN OBSERVATION BY GLENN CHILD

### **Pictures**

As you may know, the Evangelism and Membership committee has been busy preparing to publish a pictorial directory. One of the side benefits is we have collected a lot of pictures for the activity pages in the directory. Unfortunately, we only have space for a small number of pictures in the pictorial directory. What to do with all those unused pictures? Put them on the web site of course! Yes, we have expanded the categories and number of pictures on the web site. Check it out. Click on About Us, then click on Photo Gallery and finally pick the set of pictures you wish to view. We hope to keep updating the photos on a regular basis. So, if you take pictures at a church event, please consider giving a copy of them to Glenn Child. If you can give them to me electronically (CD, email, etc.), that will expedite getting them loaded to the web. If they are prints, I can scan them in and return the prints.

### **Observation**

In order to know what pictures we needed, I went through the web site and newsletters to compile a list of the activities in which members participate. The list is really impressive! In the last few years we have participated as individual members or groups in over 25 mission projects. The number of Youth Group activities, especially the fund raisers this year has been numerous. Equally impressive is the number of opportunities for education, fellowship and worship. Seeing what we have done in the last few years, I am confident that the members of Bower Hill will be participating in an equally significant number of projects in the coming years. I especially look forward to the accomplishments we can obtain when we engage in the new initiatives that will come out of the Surfing the Edge Teams.



**VIEW PHOTO'S**  
ON [www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)

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## A LETTER OF THANKS



making up the wonderful little bag of "goodies" left at my door, I thank you very much. I enjoyed every bit along with sipping my tea! Thank you again for remembering me, much appreciated!

To all who were involved in  
Sincerely,  
Dottie Post

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## CELEBRATING NEW LIFE!

### New Baby!



LuAnne McNickle, new granddaughter Sophie Christine McNickle,  
The Yohe's, new grandson Auston Michael Kosanovic,  
The Andrews family, new grandson Davis Albert Gray and  
Joan Zakor, new Great-grandson Keegan Matthew Legge.

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## MEMBERS WHO HAVE MOVED



Mrs. Dorothy Philson  
700 Bower Hill Road  
Apartment # 5206  
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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## LECTORS FOR OCTOBER

### 10:30 a.m. Service:

October 7: Cynthia Gissin

October 14: Amanda Vosburgh

October 21: George Freas

October 28: Sally Child

October 7: Rising

October 14: OPEN

October 21: Zoll

October 28: Middies

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## USHERS FOR OCTOBER

Steve Boisvert, Bob Bridges, Truman Kohman, Jack Pattison, Bob Winnett

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## GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

### 9:00 a.m. Service:

October 7: Ramaley

October 14: Warnock

October 21: Maniet

October 28: Dalmaso

### 10:30 a.m. Service:

October 7: Ewing, Foltz and Freas

October 14: Fenton, Good and Gissin

October 21: Green, Grabow and Hughes

October 28: DeVandry, Hicks and Hohlfelder

## 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 Elizabeth (Bets) George  
who passed away  
9/13/07



## CHURCH LEADERSHIP: ELDERS & DEACONS

### Elders Class of 2008

Christine Henney

Pat Jacobs

Matt Maniet

Pam Maniet

Margie Sewall

Jean Miewald

### Elders Class of 2009

Bill Cadwell

Debby Hayes

Nina Helbling

Phil Johnson

George Vosburgh

John Zoll

### Elders Class of 2010

Steve Boisvert

Glenn Child

Denny Geis, Jr.

Alan Hohlfelder

Jason Rising

Dan Zabo

### 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

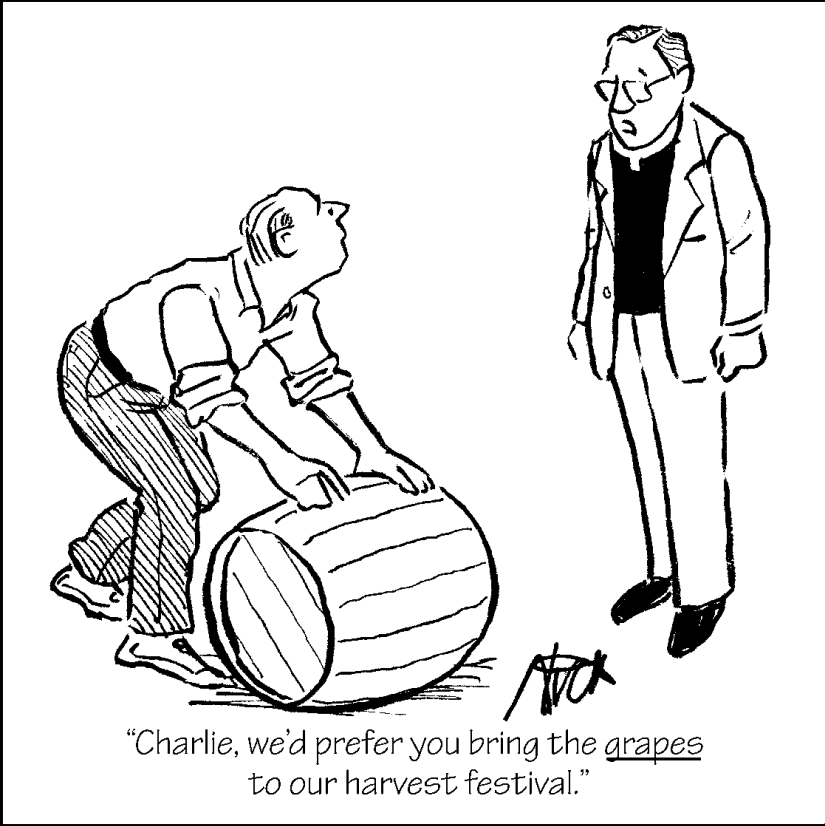
Theresa Child

Nancy Geis

Tom Hayes

Kate Junker

Linda Johnson



“Charlie, we’d prefer you bring the grapes to our harvest festival.”

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries

je@bhccml.com

Brian Hayes, Director of Youth Ministries

br@bhccml.com

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, Secretary

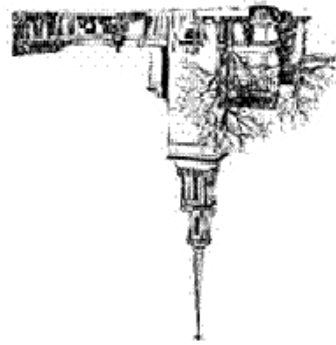
ki@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00am—3:00 pm

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



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CHURCH

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