

BOWER HILL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

LOVE ONE ANOTHER BY REV. LAURIE & REV. LEONARD

Last month, the newsletter cover talked about learning to pray, and Laurie shared that the session has been discussing the book, *Becoming a Blessed Church* by N. Graham Standish. As your session has been exploring our identity as the spiritual leaders of the church, our session meetings have included a time to learn a spiritual discipline and we have been spending some time in prayerful discernment. In the book *Holy Conversations*, by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann, discernment is described as “the process by which we notice, ponder, and interpret our experience in light of faith. In spiritual discernment, we perceive sacred significance in a current moment and in the winding path by which we have arrived. We listen for the still small voice that beckons us onward, quietly revealing what we are here on earth to do and to become.” Basically, your session has been inviting God more fully into our process of decision making as we seek together to discover where God is leading Bower Hill. In the midst of a discussion about how to include our children and youth more consistently in worship, we were led to a discussion about worship in general and our present Sunday morning schedule. There was a consensus that we needed to spend some time in prayerful discernment about what we were doing, why we were doing it and if we were called to continue doing things the way we have been doing them on Sunday morning. After two months of prayerful discernment both in session meetings and in our personal devotional life, the session has felt led by God to try an experiment. This experiment grew out of God’s leading and session’s belief that one of our congregation’s core values is community.

Community has been part of Bower Hill’s identity since the beginning. Community is one of the values that was spoken about over and over again as the MAT team led us in worship in September. We live out our call to be a community together when we show love and compassion for one another and when we work together as a community of faith through our mission work. The session believes that the core theological foundation of Bower Hill is that God has called us to be a community together and it is our desire as the leadership of the church to envision that community into a more profound reality.

With that core belief in mind and after prayerful discernment, we are inviting you to help us envision and prayerfully enact a stronger community into reality by joining us in an experiment of worshiping together during the month of December with one service at 10:00 am. In the weeks ahead, your worship committee and session will be working together with God’s help to create a new worship experience that will include some of the cherished pieces of the contemporary and traditional services. We will be working hard to ensure that worship is a time when we come together to experience the awesome presence of our Almighty God.

As we prepare for this experiment in the month ahead, we ask you to join with us in praying for a deeper sense of community. We ask you to consider Jesus’ call and charge for his disciples to “love one another.” As we consider these words about love and our call to be in communion together, we can live out these beliefs by loving one another enough to learn and value the words and styles of music that are different from our own. We can love one another by smiling encouragingly at the parent with the fussy child to let them know we are glad they are a part of our family. We can love one another by entering into this experiment with an open heart. We can love one another by letting each other know how glad we are, that each person here is a part of our family. We can love one another by standing side by side in worship together as unique individuals who have been called by God to love one another and treasure the uniqueness and gifts of each person. Your pastors commend the session for their openness to God and for their spiritual leadership and we hope that you will join us in celebrating the discerning work of your session.



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YOUTH NEWS BY BRIAN HAYES



Youth Group News

The Youth of BHCC participated in a unique experience this past month. World Vision sponsored an exhibit designed to promote awareness toward the AIDS pandemic in Africa. The event was in Grove City, so we organized a caravan and headed north. There were fourteen of us altogether up there. The exhibit itself was contained by a maze of wooden walls that were covered in beautiful and sometimes poignant photographs. We were all given our own Ipods with headphones. Playing the recording would navigate each of us through the story of one of four children. Each story was reinforced through the photos on the walls. Each story was also very emotional and rich with detail. The participants essentially got to walk in an African child's shoes. Our kids were surprised by the stark contrast in culture. It was also enlightening for them so that now they might have more of a chance of being able to empathize. Some of the youth even decided to sponsor a child after walking through the experience! Keep an eye out on our church website (www.bhccml.com) for testimonials from some of the kids. Contact me and if would like to know more.

November Youth Events:

November 4: After the 9:00 a.m. service — High School breakfast at Denny's.

November 4: 10:30 a.m. service — High School and Middies flea market pricing

November 4: 8:00 p.m. — Middies bowling night at Sports Haven Bowling Alley. (meet in Parking Lot)

November 5: High School Lunch and Movie. (Time & Place TBD)

November 11: 10:30 a.m. service — High School and Middies flea market pricing

November 17: 8:00 a.m. — High School and Middies selling baked goods at the flea market

November 21: 7:30 p.m.— High School Thanksgiving Party. (Lounge)

MINUTE FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY DEBBIE BOISVERT

When packing up items for the Flea Market, you may have found that some of your donations were originally gifts. Some may have outlived their usefulness; some may never have been quite right for your household; and some may have been outright "clunkers." No one wants to give a clunker of a gift, although we have all probably done so at some time. I was excited when a friend introduced me to alternative gifts, and organizations make it increasingly easy to donate in honor of someone.

I have found alternative gifts invaluable for many family members and friends: those who are downsizing and want "no more stuff"; those nieces and nephews who have everything I've ever heard of and then some; those people who have achieved something memorable but whose invitations read, "no gifts, please." As it turns out, the congregation of Bower Hill has known about alternative gifts for longer than I have. There are many options to honor a loved one while your gift does wonderful work for those in need. You might try "alternativegifts.org," or check the web sites of organizations such as World Vision, Church World Service, Samaritans' Purse, or the Medical Benevolence Fund.

No one expects to put the Flea Market out of existence, and such an outcome is unlikely. However, alternative gifts do provide, as the name suggests, an option that can produce a great deal of good.



Minute for Making a Difference

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

The season of Advent is quickly approaching! Advent and Christmas are excellent times to sing with the choir—If you don't want to commit to singing all throughout the program year but still love to sing, this is a good opportunity. We are preparing for a number of great musical selections throughout the season.

There is always space for new members in all three of our ensembles:

King's Kids Clappers Wednesdays at 4.30pm

Handbell Choir Thursdays at 6.30pm

Chancel Choir Thursdays at 7.45pm



PROSPECT PARK UPDATE BY STEVE BOISVERT

BHCC honored the work and memory of Diane Leeson at the Family Intervention Center in Prospect Park in September. When we arrived the first morning, we found a dark and uninviting apartment. After three half days of cleaning, painting, sewing, carpentry (Thanks to Rolliers Hardware for a generous discount of paint and supplies), and plenty of laughter, there was a bright, cheerful, and welcoming center ready for new carpeting (Thank you Hinkle and Hoffman for a wonderful deal) and updated furniture. Diane would have been thrilled to see so many members of BHCC taking part and having so much fun. Sunday afternoon found several shy young girls peeking in the Center. Courtney Bahr, the director, invited them in to see our handiwork "Is this for us? Its' beautiful! Her (Courtney's) room is yellow!" Wait until they see the new carpeting and furniture!

Thanks to the following members who took part in this project: Chuck and Betsy Prine who funded the project, John Zoll, Carolyn Westerhoff, Bill Wegener, Dave Stewart, Carolyn Phillippe, Gordon Mitchell, Anne Mitchell, Jean Miewald, LuAnn McNickle, Wendy Mazzini, Connie May, Diane Lease, Chan Ketchum, Rick Jacobs, Woody Hughes, Barb Hughes, Betsy Hohlfelder, Alan Hohlfelder, Ben Hohlfelder, Mary Good, Glenn Child, Debbie Boisvert, Steve Boisvert



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 November, we will meet on November 13, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book, *Revenge of the Middle Aged Woman* by Elizabeth Buchan. We will meet at the home of Lee Ferraro's. Come and join us! You'll be glad you did!



THANKSGIVING SERVICE BY REV. LAURIE

Again this year we will join with Temple Emanuel, Our Lady of Grace, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and SHIM for our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The service will be held at Bower Hill on Tuesday November 20th at 7:30 pm. As we are mindful of our many blessings, an offering will be take up for SHIM so that they can continue their good work for those in need. In addition to financial contributions, please bring a bag of non perishable food items to help stock the SHIM food pantry.



SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP STARTING IN JANUARY BY ALAN HOHLFELDER



Beginning in January, the Evangelism, Membership and Community Building Committee of Bower Hill will be organizing small fellowship groups. The groups will be comprised of 6 to 10 people and will focus on fellowship, study and service. Groups will meet in members homes and will be provided with small group study guides to facilitate spiritual growth. At the completion of the study, groups will be encouraged to participate in a service activity of their choosing. Look for signup tables at the church in mid November and early December. Please join us for a time to grow together as a community of faith, get to know each other and work together to serve those in need. Call Alan Hohlfelder at (412) 341 - 1029 if you are interested or have questions.

FLEA MARKET BY THERESA CHILD



LAST CALL FOR FLEA MARKET ITEMS: Please bring any donations for the flea market to the church by Sunday November 11th. 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 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. The Flea Market will be held Saturday, November 17th from 8:30am-3:00pm. Make sure to stop by and check out the new Bower Hill Boutique and the new Cafe sponsored by the youth group.

A MESSAGE FROM MALAWI BY ROY MPONDA

Dear Bower Hill Church,

Just to say hello! How are you good people and all my brothers and sisters over there? As for me and my family we are all doing fine.



I also wanted to break the good news to you and all concerned it was communicated to us that the bore hole funds deposited to the Blantyre Synod account. Our Session Clerk has just left today for Blantyre to collect the check that will be deposited to Mbenjere Church account. I and some colleagues have been now tasked to look for prominent drillers to do the job. I thought it wise to inform you though not in detail at the moment because I knew you have been so anxious over this issue for a long time. I will tell you the detailed summary of the funds once I see the check's amount in our local currency.

"Tsalani bwino" (Stay Well),

FOOD BANK COLLECTION BY JASON RISING



Food Bank
Needs

The Wallace food pantry appreciates your donations for November! This month's donations will be collected on Sunday, November 11th. Donations of canned vegetables, canned cranberries boxed stuffing and canned fruit 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 to learn more about the work of the food bank.

FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED BY THERESA CHILD

There will be lots of opportunities to help out with the set up of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale. Here's what's happening:

Wednesday November 14th 7:00 pm-Bringing Down the Boxes-The youth will be bringing down all the boxes from the loft to Fellowship Hall. We could use some extra "heavy lifters" to "lighten" the load. If you're not a heavy lifter, but are available that night we can start unloading boxes although most of the unpacking will take place Thursday and Friday.

Thursday November 15th 9:00am-3:00pm and Friday November 16th 9:00am-????-Unpacking the Boxes-Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a work out. We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all.

Saturday November 17th 8:00am-3:00pm-Sale Day-The Flea Market opens at 8:30am and we usually have some shoppers arriving early. We'll need the most help the first two or three hours. The good news is that Washington City Mission will come in the following week to take what they can use, so there is NO CLEAN UP after the sale is over!

DON'T FORGET FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!

If you have any questions, call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.



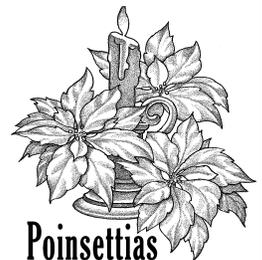
You Can Help!

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS BY MARGARET ZABO

This year's Poinsettia orders will be accepted from now to December 2. The plants are \$10.00 each and will be used for the Church Christmas tree display. Orders forms are included in this newsletter and will also be available in the Church Office.

Please complete one order form for each Poinsettia purchased.

For further information contact the Church Office or call Margaret Zabo at 412-341-1356



Poinsettias

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

\$10.00 Each

Use one order form per plant.

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Poinsettias may be picked up after the Christmas Eve Service or by Wednesday, December 26.

Please deliver this order form with payment to the Church Office.

Order Deadline is Sunday, December 2.



A LETTERS OF THANKS



Thank you to the Miriam House Cooks, for the wonderful bag of goodies you gave me a few weeks ago. I don't know what I did to deserve it, but it was a wonderful surprise.

Love to all,
Jeanne Olsen

Bower Hill Church & Feed My Sheep,

Thank you for the flowers and the snacks. Harry has enjoyed both, and the prayers. We have seen improvement.

Thank you!
Harry & Jean Dunfee

To "Feed My Sheep,"

Thank you for the package you left for us.
We appreciate the kind thoughts.

Thank you,
Al & Betty Mitchell.

Dear Bower Hill Church Friends,

Thank you for the bag of goodies delivered to us by Margaret Zabo: breads, jam, jellies, cream cheese, oatmeal, juices, peaches, coffee and tea.

As we eat this delicious food we think of the love and caring Bower Hill members have for each other.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness.
God Bless you,
Jim and Jean McAnulty

LECTORS FOR NOVEMBER

10:30 a.m. Service:

- November 4: Kurt Kerner
- November 11: Ben Hohlfelder
- November 18: Tim Lease
- November 25: Dave Green

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

- November 4: OPEN
- November 11: Natalie Shaw
- November 18: Marian Brannan and Donna Williams
- November 25: OPEN

USHERS FOR NOVEMBER

Jim Corbett, Lucille Heckman, Woody Hughes, Earl Kennedy and Bill Ramsey

9:00 a.m. Service:

- November 4: The Shaw Family
- November 11: Jamie Sonnie
- November 18: Christine Henney
- November 25: Glenn and Sally Child

10:30 a.m. Service:

- November 4: Geis, Sr., Heckman and Helbling
- November 11: Junker, Johnson (Moody) and Johnson (Phil)
- November 18: Knox, Kohman and Kane
- November 25: Lamb, Lease and Linaburg

COMMUNION SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER

Dave and Nancy Green, Donna Williams, Jim and Joan McAnulty, Richard Rothrock, George Vosburgh and John Zoll

CARE LIST

Margie and Roll Beatty, 1300 Bower Hill Rd. 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
 Toie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Let us pray for loved ones
 of Howard Smithyman
 who passed away
 10/19/07



CHURCH LEADERSHIP: ELDERS & DEACONS

Elders Class of 2008	Elders Class of 2009	Elders Class of 2010
Christine Henney	Bill Cadwell	Steve Boisvert
Pat Jacobs	Debby Hayes	Glenn Child
Matt Maniet	Nina Helbling	Denny Geis, Jr.
Pam Maniet	Phil Johnson	Alan Hohlfelder
Margie Sewall	George Vosburgh	Jason Rising
Jean Miewald	John Zoll	Dan Zabo

Deacons Class of 2008	Deacons Class of 2009	Deacons Class of 2010
Marian Brannan	Elaine Dalmaso	Theresa Child
Betty Chidlow	Mary Good	Nancy Geis
Barbara Hughes	Ben Hohlfelder	Tom Hayes
Kathy Philson	Phyllis Yohe	Kate Junker
Carolyn Westerhoff	Margaret Zabo	Linda Johnson



"I can't even entertain myself for five minutes.
How am I going to handle eternity?"

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries

je@bhccml.com

Michael Bergen, Custodian

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

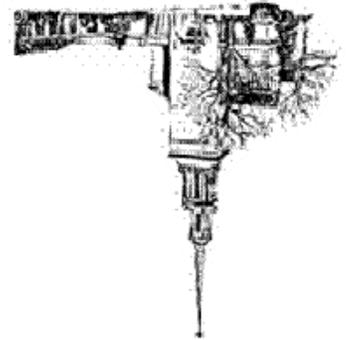
Kimberly Shetter, Secretary

ki@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

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



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