

# BOWER HILL NEWS

## ...A DREAM

MARCH 2008

We have been developing a vision. Or maybe...a dream. It's not a lofty, change the world kind of dream, but it is a powerful dream. It is a dream about Bower Hill living out its call to community. Believe it or not, this dream began to rev up because of cars. Yes, cars. A few weeks ago, our boys were handed 2 little black boxes that each contained a block of wood, four nails and four little wheels. The Cub Scout "Pinewood Derby" was upon us. Confession: we are not the handy with tools type! With the pleading looks of our children staring us in the face, we considered our options. If only we knew someone who was handy who would be willing to help? We longed for a family member close by who could help us to transform this block of wood into a car. Then we realized, we did have a family member to turn to. A family member, connected to us not by blood, but by faith. A member of Bower Hill, who was a brother in Christ, lovingly helped our two boys to cut and sand their derby cars. It was a gift to them and to us that reminded us of what it means to be a part of a community of faith.

We began to imagine the possibilities that exist within such a talented community of faith for each of us to help and serve one another by sharing our gifts, which leads to the second car story! A member of the church stopped by to share an idea he had for "car recycling." This particular member has the knowledge and skills to oversee the disassembling of cars and he knows where the pieces can be taken to recycle them. It is a gift of teaching that he is willing to share with any kids (or even adults), and we are trying to work out the logistics of making this project happen.

Imagine that whatever problem you face, whatever obstacle you encounter, having not only God on your side, but also a loving sister or brother in Christ to turn to. While we were serving churches in Washington State, there was a discussion going on at one of our churches about grandparents. The community was transient, due to the military base in town and there were many young families that were separated from their relatives. Their children did not have the privilege of spending regular time with their grandparents. The church responded to this need with an "adopt a grandchild" program where children were paired with willing grandparents who spent time with them. They began by reading in the library after church and the program quickly expanded as the children and grandparents grew closer to one another.

As we take our next step towards claiming our identity as a community church this month by going to one service at 9:30 am on March 16th, we invite you to consider our vision and we invite you to begin to dream with us about how we can indeed live out our call to community!

REV. LAURIE & REV. LEONARD



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## CHURCH NEWS...COME JOIN IN!

### BOOKWORMS



Bookworms meets on the third Tuesday of each month for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title.

**March 18:**

Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini  
Hosted by: Margaret Zabo

### GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARDS

What do they do for Bower Hill Community Church?

When the church purchases a block of gift cards for \$10,000. our church receives 5% discount. Once these cards are sold our church has \$500 that is added to the operating budget. This is a great way to help the church earn additional funds. A big thank you goes to the men willing to sell Giant Eagle cards every Sunday morning. You can use the gift cards to buy your groceries, gas, other gift cards or a gift for a friend.

- **In 2006 \$3,000 was added to the operating budget by these sales.**
- **In 2007 \$2,500 was added to the operating budget by these sales.**

Our sales have fallen off a little, so we just wanted to remind everyone that this is a great way to support our church. Remember, when you purchase groceries or a different company's gift card with a Giant Eagle gift card you will also receive Fuel Perks for discounts on gas at Get Go Stations! It's a "Win-Win" situation! You can save and Bower Hill Church can benefit!



### VBS PLANNING MEETING

Calling one, calling all, plans are just beginning for another exciting year at Vacation Bible School.

We are looking at curriculum and dates for 2008, so now's the time to get in on the action. Join us after worship on March 9<sup>th</sup> in room 103 for a short meeting to get the ball rolling! Hope to see you there.



### PROSPECT PARK

#### OPEN HOUSE

SHIM has invited any interested member of Bower Hill to attend an Open House on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:00 at their Prospect Park Family Center.

As you recall, last fall over 20 members from our congregation took part in a "makeover" of the Center in loving memory of Diane Leeson. After 3 ½ days of cleaning, painting, sewing and carpentry the Center was transformed into a bright, cheerful and welcoming site.

In gratitude, SHIM wants us to come back to see the finished project and to mingle with the families who are delighted with our work. They even plan to serve some light lunch food for us to enjoy.

All are welcome to the Open House, regardless of project participation. We will caravan from the church parking lot (near the office), leaving at Noon. Any questions please call Steve Boisvert or Betsy Hohlfelder.

### FELLOWSHIP FOR MEN

Join the men of Bower Hill for food and fellowship once a month as they gather at King's Restaurant in Heidelberg.

#### November through March:

1st Wednesday of the month

#### April through October

1st Tuesday of the month



### MEN'S GROUP CHANGES DATE

Are you an early riser? Join the Men's group at 6:45 AM at BHCC in room 103 for fellowship and discussion.



**Please note that beginning Monday, March 3rd, the Men's Group will change their regular meeting day to Monday.**

## APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>, DON'T GO TO CHURCH. BE THE CHURCH.



Plan to join your whole Bower Hill Community Church family for FAITH IN ACTION, a five-week period focusing on our call to serve others. It all begins on March 30th with the worship service leading us to the historic day on Sunday April 20th when we DON'T GO TO CHURCH. Instead, we will BE THE CHURCH through four service projects; all designed to directly touch lives and reflect Christ's love for others in our community.

How do we prepare to put our FAITH IN ACTION? Everyone will have the opportunity to participate in one of the small study and discussion groups. Choose the time that suits you best: all are welcome during the Sunday Christian Education Hour at 10:45 AM, or Wednesdays at 9 AM with Koinonia; gentlemen please consider joining the Men's Group Mondays at 6:45 AM. The High School and Middle School youth will also discuss putting their FAITH IN ACTION during their normal Sunday school time on these days. Each group will meet for four sessions. In addition, daily devotions and the worship services will center on this theme.

On April 20th when we cancel the usual worship service our projects will be: maintaining the trails and trash pick up at Kane Woods (Scott Twp.), making comfort pillows for mastectomy/node patients at St. Clair Hospital, preparing and delivering bag lunches to Myriam's or Light of Life Mission, and presenting an information seminar on Autism with the new center in uptown Mt. Lebanon. There is a project for everyone. We are aiming for 100% participation from our own congregation and hope you will invite others from the community to work along with us.

Get ready for some exciting opportunities. More information and sign-ups will follow. If you can't wait to hear more, ask Steve Boisvert, Jim Burke, Theresa Child, Mary Good, Betsy Hohlfelder, Rick Jacobs, Tim Lease, Jean Miewald, Kathy Philson, or John Zoll.

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES... HOW CAN YOU HELP?

#### GREEN GROCERS NEEDED FOR MIRYAM'S HOUSE

Have you heard of the Green Grocers? This very successful and important mission project at Bower Hill is in need of a few more participants. Green Grocers are responsible for picking up a produce shipment from Giant Eagle and delivering it to Miryam's House, which serves homeless and mentally ill women in Pittsburgh. Pick-up occurs on Sundays. The rotations are split between volunteers, with each taking one Sunday a month. Currently, there is a need for an individual or a family to cover the fifth Sunday of the month. This "shift" occurs only about four times a year. If you can fit this opportunity for service into your schedule or, perhaps, would like to volunteer as an alternate, please contact Dave Hicks via the Bower Hill Community Church office.

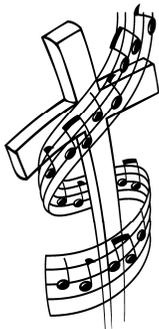


#### FOOD BANK COLLECTION



Food Banks all over our community are reporting desperate needs for food. Shelves are low on supplies and major cuts are being made to assistance programs. On Sunday, March 9th we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. Please give generously to help those in need. **The food pantry is in particular need of baby food, diapers and paper products (such as tissues, paper towels, napkins, etc.).**

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



**Handbell Choir** Thursdays at 6.30pm

The Handbell Choir is working hard, preparing for the North Hills Handbell Festival. The public concert is on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Marshall Middle School. (Directions will be in April newsletter.) We would love to see you there!

There is always more room for people to join our ensembles! If you have any interest in joining the Handbell or Chancel Choir, please speak with Jessica, or any of the members of the ensembles. Or, if you have a desire to occasionally provide an anthem for Worship, you are more than welcome.

**Chancel Choir** Thursdays at 7.45pm

## ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH

**March 2:** "Your Green Home" If you are interested in conservation, this is a class not to be missed! Come and hear Ann Gerace, the Executive Director of Conservation Consultants and learn some practical tips for going green and helping the environment!



Adult Education

**March 9:** "Life of a Refugee." Ever wonder what it's like to give up everything and move thousands of miles away? Ever wonder what it's like to be dependant on the kindness of strangers? Ever wonder just how much help refugees get when they come to the United States in search of a better life. Join the Adult Education class to hear Jim Guffey, the Executive Director of South Hills Interfaith Ministries share his knowledge about refugees and what SHIM is doing to help.

**March 16:** "Mary Magdalene-Beyond the DaVinci Code!" Using The Thoughtful Christian to guide this study we will consider the truth and myths surrounding Mary Magdalene. What do scholars say? What does the Bible say? And what does tradition teach? Led by Rev. Laurie Sponaugle *This is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the new schedule. Worship will be held at 9:30 am and class will begins at 10:45 am in the Library.*

**March 23:** Easter Sunday- No Adult Education this week!

**March 30:** "Detours!" Come to the first week of the Faith In Action Series and join this small group discussion about detours and faith. The class will be led by one of the members of the Mission Action Team.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Want to change the life of a child? It's not as hard as you think! Volunteer to get involved with Sunday School. Teachers are needed for our Middle School class which will meet after worship from 10:45 am-11:45 am beginning March 16. Teachers and assistants are also needed for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class and the 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes which both meet during worship. With the new schedule, we really need to add more teachers so that everyone has the opportunity to worship! There are only 9 classes left until the end of the Sunday School year, so it's not a huge commitment. Classes are being held on March 16 and 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11 and 18; so check your schedule and take a risk by volunteering it will change your life and the life of a child! See Debby Hayes or Rev. Laurie to sign up.

## MARCH YOUTH NEWS



Greetings during the transition of seasons! The Youth Department of BHCC is teeming with activity this month. We have the Worktrip, Fundraisers, new programs, new alliances and the future of BHCC to discuss this month!

The Work Trip to the Eastern Shore of Maryland is underway. We are journeying with twelve students this year. Our workload will be divided evenly between construction and participating in a children's day camp. During Sunday School, we have been remembering the previous trip through the example of Jesus washing his Disciples' feet. We enthusiastically anticipate the chance to further explore the joy of serving others.

Once again, Tim Lease has humbly volunteered to chaperone the mission trip. This should indicate that chaperoning is not as terrifying as it sounds. We continue to search for a female chaperone. If one has questions about chaperoning, please feel free to contact the chaperones from last year: Tim, Jason Rising, and Judy Lunoe. If there are any interested female chaperones, contact us through the church office or at [br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com). Rest assured the adventure will be both entertaining and cathartic. We all need our perspective ameliorated once in awhile.

Our gratitude to the Congregation of BHCC for participation in Youth Fundraisers increases exponentially. The Flea Market Cooperation, the Wreath Sale, and the first Hoagie Sale have all exceeded their fiscal expectations. Our first Sunday Lunch was our most successful to date! We extend a special note of gratitude to Jeff and Carol Iovino of *Iovino's Café* for donating their Tomato Basil Soup for the cause. We will offer a final lunch after the Worship Service on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Committee will be launching a new program in April. One of our high school students, Carly Lunoe, has incited the *BHCC Knitting Circle*. The group will meet every other Sunday afternoon. Carly will be organizing the events with the help of her mom (Youth Committee member Judy Lunoe), Elder Debby Hayes, and former Elder/Deacon Joan McAnulty. There will be a variety of mission-related causes to knit for. The group will integrate the wide range of age groups within our congregation. We are very energized to begin. Please contact Debby Hayes (412.221.6065) with any interest or questions.

We are thrilled to announce that the Boy Scouts of BHCC and our Youth Department will begin to forge and strengthen a their relationship. The two groups will be able to utilize one another for events such as fundraisers and local mission activity. The Youth Department will collaborate with BHCC Scout Liaison Dave Green as well as the Troop leaders to organize future actions. Our first event together will be the planting of a spruce tree for Earth Day. This will occur in April. Contact the church office with ideas or suggestions.

The Senior High Bible Study is happening! We continue to examine the relationship of opposing forces in society. We highlight Jesus' lessons regarding balance and integrity. We also attempt to understand our world through different perspectives. We draw comparisons between positive and negative cultural influences. We explore the depth to the concept of God's decision to manifest himself to human flesh. And if that were not enough, we receive excerpts of wisdom through the movie *Napoleon Dynamite*. If any are interested in participating or just hearing about what we are learning, let us know: [br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com).

There are many different timeframes with which one can view our church. This is a significant moment for the development of our youth and for the future of Our Father's Church. From many different points of view, we are at a crossroads. Thank you for your prayer and support toward the Youth of BHCC!

### WORSHIP INFORMATION

**Worship Reminder** On Palm Sunday, March 16, the new Sunday schedule will begin:

**9:30-10:30AM:** Worship

Sunday School for preschool-5th graders will begin after the children’s message.

**10:30AM-10:45AM:** Fellowship Time

**10:45AM– 11:45AM:** Adult Education, Middle School and Senior High Education. During this hour, there will be nursery care and activities for children in preschool through 5th grade in the Fellowship Hall to enable parents to attend Adult Education.

**Special Lent and Holy Week Services:**

**Taize:** Tues. March 4 & 11 at 7 PM in the Chapel.

**Palm Sunday March 16:** Worship at 9:30AM

**Maundy Thursday March 20:**

Worship with Communion at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall

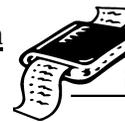


**Good Friday Community Service March 21**

A Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, 12-3PM  
Bower Hill Participation 1:20-1:45PM

**Easter Sunday March 23:** Worship at 9:30 am

**Preaching Plans for March**



**Preaching Schedule**

*March 2 & 9 Worship at 9:00 am and 10:30 am*

**March 2:** John 9:1-41: Rev. Laurie will be preaching: Title: “Where is the party?”

**March 9:** John 11:1-45: Rev. Leonard will be preaching: working title: “A Surprise!”

*Beginning March 16: Worship at 9:30 am*

**March 16:** Palm Sunday: Join us as we celebrate the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. Rev. Leonard will lead us through Scripture from the palms to the passion. (One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected in worship).

**March 23:** Easter Sunday: Matt. 28:1-10: Rev. Laurie will be preaching: working title: “Interrupted!”

**March 30:** Faith In Action, week 1: Luke 10:25-37: Rev. Laurie will be preaching: Title: “Detour!”

### EASTER LILIES

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants @ \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_

**Please use a separate order form for each dedication:**

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to the Church Office, or drop in the Sunday Collection Plate by **Sunday, March 9, 2007.**

## 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, 1648 Sillview Drive, 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

Harry Retzer, 493 Castle Shannon Boulevard, #520, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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## WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

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### USHERS

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

### COMMUNION SERVERS FOR MARCH

Bill Andrews, Nancy Andrews, Betty Ewing, Carol Knox, Graham Knox, Tim Lease, Cindy Waller, Carolyn Westerhoff Choir: Pat Jacobs, Rick Jacobs

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### GREETERS FOR MARCH

#### 9:00 AM Service

March 2: Glenn and Sally Child

March 9: Meagan Ridgeway

#### 10:30 AM Service

March 2: Green/ Grabow/ Hughes

#### New Schedule 9:30 Service

March 16: Geis Jr./ Geis Sr./ Heckman/ Helbling

March 23: T. & C. Westerhoff/ Junker/ M. Johnson/ P. Johnson

March 30: Schardt/ Knox/ Kohman/ Kane

### LECTORS

March 2: Joan Bridges

March 9: Mary Beth Waine

March 16: John Zoll

March 23: Dave Green

March 30: Debby Hayes

April 6: Sally Child

April 13: Betty Ewing

April 20: Kirsten Bruder

April 27: Amanda Vosburgh

**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

Emily Kerr, Secretary

em@bhccml.com

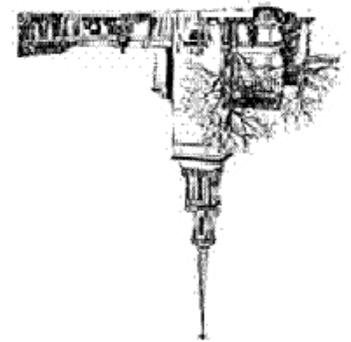
THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:15am—3:15 pm



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



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