

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

BOWER HILL NEWS

GOING TO CHURCH...BEING THE CHURCH

Why do we go to church? Is it just something we are in the habit of doing? Is it one of those "supposed to's" that we learned as a child, so we just do it? Do we go to church as a way of fulfilling an obligation to God? Do we go to church to get a "shot in the arm" of hope in order to make it through the rest of the week? Or is the reason we go to church bigger than a habit, or an obligation or just because? For as long as I can remember, I have gone to church. I don't think my family was extremely "religious" (everyone was more than a little surprised when I announced that I believed that God was calling me to be a minister). At home we didn't talk much about God or prayer or devotion. I'm not sure why we went to church so often. I never asked why, it was just something we did. I do know that when I finally received my driver's license, week after week, I made the decision to drive myself to church. Why? I think, in part, because I was seeking to know God and in part because I found meaning in worship. For the most part, however, I did not want to miss church because it was a place where I was welcomed and nurtured. I always lingered at coffee hour to visit with people who showed me acceptance, love and compassion. In the fellowship hall of the church, I discovered what it was to be the church! As the church was living out its call to be family, sisters and brothers in community together, it was demonstrating the love of God and it was powerful and transforming.

When the Mission Action Team lead us in worship a few months ago and invited us to share how we had seen God at Bower Hill, many in our congregation shared similar stories of how the church had been a powerful community of caring and compassion reaching out to one another and to the world. Stories were told of acts of compassion and mission and it was an inspirational experience to hear story after story about the awesome power of the church in your lives. That worship celebration was a natural springboard to the Mission Action Team's next experiment which began on March 30. The experiment is called Faith In Action and it will lead us to delve deeper into the question, what does it mean to be the church? The centerpiece of this experiment is "Don't Go to Church Sunday," which will take place on April 20th, and we will cancel our regular Sunday morning worship service on that day.

As strange as it sounds to cancel worship, we will do it as a dramatic statement that church is about more than just going to a building, it is about more than just worship, it is about using our gifts to be the church in the world. As we have just experienced Easter Sunday, I can't help but think about what happened after the resurrection. Jesus didn't tell the disciples to go build a big church and stay in it. He told them to go out into all the world and share the gospel. On April 20th, we will be going out in the world and sharing the good news of God's love as we care for the community around us. We will be doing acts of service on behalf of God as a demonstration of God's love and we will be inviting others to join us as we go out to "Be the Church." Yes, this is an opportunity for us to do a little evangelism! For those of us who are a little uncomfortable with the word evangelism, perhaps it is helpful to remember that "evangelism" is about sharing the good news and what better way to share the good news than by caring for one another and God's community. It is our hope that those who find it difficult to invite someone to church will find it easy to invite someone to participate in an act of service.

In the days and weeks ahead, we hope you will join in this wonderful worship, small group, and mission opportunity with an open heart as we seek to claim our identity as a "Community" church and join in being the church to our community. We further hope that you will hold up the Mission Action Team and the leadership of the church in your prayers. May God continue to bless this community.

REVEREND LAURIE

APRIL 2008



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DON'T GO TO CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH! APRIL 20TH



MISSION PROJECTS

Kane Woods Clean Up-Time

9:00 AM at Kane Woods. Work one hour, work several hours; come early, come late. This project will run all day. Project will include trail maintenance, a creek sweep, driving sign posts, hanging signs, and building benches and will coincide with the "Redd Up Pittsburgh" campaign and Boris Weinstein's Citizen's Against Litter. All supplies including gloves and high visibility vests will be provided by the county.

Pillows for Patients

9:30 AM in the Lounge. Project will include cutting, stuffing and sewing small pillows for breast cancer patients at St. Clair Hospital recovering from mastectomies and underarm node removal surgery as well as making get well cards.

A Heart for the Homeless

(Lunches for Ladies)

9:30am in Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen. Project will include making sandwiches and baking and decorating cookies for bagged lunches which we will serve to the women at Miryam's House for their noon meal.

Forum for Autism

2:00—4:00 PM Forum in the Sanctuary, light refreshments offered. The forum is geared mostly to parents and families with loved ones affected by autism, but all are invited to learn more about autism, what resources are available, and what we can do as a community to help raise awareness and give support to those affected. We will also need help with things such as greeting and preparing for serving at the reception.

More info on all four projects can be found on the church website at www.bhccml.com (click on Don't go to Church).

The time is now for the "Faith in Action" experiment that has been mentioned in the past two newsletters.

So, how exactly can we put our **FAITH IN ACTION**?

Attend worship



Beginning Sunday March 30th through Sunday April 27th the church services will be focused on how we as a congregation can **BE THE CHURCH**.

Be a part of the mission projects



The Sunday April 20th service will be canceled and we will have the opportunity to participate in one or more of four service projects designed to directly touch lives and reflect Christ's love for others in the surrounding communities.

Invite someone else to participate



We are calling April 20th "Community Action Day" because an important part of this effort is to invite our friends and neighbors to join us in the mission projects. (Isn't that the reason we're Bower Hill *Community Church*?)

About inviting a friend...

It's easy to invite a friend. Just use one of the brochures provided in this newsletter and mail it to a friend (make sure to write a personal note in the space provided) or bring a few addresses to the worship service on Sunday April 6th. We'll spend part of the service addressing and adding personal notes to pre-made postcards.

Be a part of the small group discussions



The small group sessions will last about an hour beginning with video clips and then discussion. Study guides will be handed out when each small group meets. In addition to providing topics for our weekly discussions, the guides contain daily devotions for personal use.

About the small groups...

The small groups begin this week (March 30-April 6) and will run for the next four weeks with the following schedule:

Sundays

10:45am (the usual Adult Ed time)

There will be two different groups at this time, one for adults and the second for the Senior Highs, Confirmation class and Middle School kids.

Note: Both Sunday groups will skip April 20th and finish on April 27th.

Mondays

6:45am (the usual Men's Group time)

This will remain a men's group

Wednesdays

9:00am (the usual Koinonia time)

Both men and women are invited to be a part of this group

You are free to participate in a different group each week

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES... HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SHIM Holocaust Observance



The 29th annual Holocaust Observance is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 7:00 PM at Temple Emmanuel of the South Hills. The annual Holocaust Observance has brought the interfaith community together to commemorate the lives of victims to honor and recognize survivors, to educate and to learn, but most of all, to remember. By recalling the past and teaching future generations the lessons of the holocaust, we can keep alive the hope of "Never Again". Individuals are needed to assist in the overall planning of the observance to include the composition of the observance and public relations.

Anyone interested in the planning of this event should contact Jim Guffey, Executive Director, at (412) 854-9120 x11 or jguffey@shim-center.org

March for Darfur

Bower Hill Community Church will be participating in The Pittsburgh Darfur Emergency Coalition Destroyed Villages Project. The march and rally will be held **May 18th, from 2-4 pm**. Participants will be asked to carry professionally printed signs, each bearing the name of a village destroyed or damaged in the conflict. Signs can be sponsored for a \$10 donation.

For more information contact David Rosenburg at jumphook@gmail.com or 412-892-8842.

Wallace Food Pantry

To the Members of BHCC,

Once Again, we at Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry, find ourselves expressing to you our deepest appreciations for your continued support in designating us as a recipient of your food collections.


A Special
THANK YOU


Our pantry's service to those neighbors who are less fortunate continues to grow and it truly is only through the commitment of our friends and neighbors who are inspired by Christ's spirit to reach out in mission to others, can we meet our needs to feed those who are hungry. Together we do make such a difference.

Our sincere "thank you" with out continuing prayers for God's blessings on all of your lives at BHCC.

In Christ's Service,

The Volunteers in Ministry of the Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church Food Pantry



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, April 13th 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.).**

Congregational Meeting

There will be a meeting of the congregation on Sunday April 13, 2008 immediately following worship (approximately 10:30 AM) in the sanctuary.

Nominations needed

Please take note of the nomination form on page 6. Your suggestions for church officers are needed. Please return the form to the office either by mail or by hand.

Bower Hillers Luncheon

The Bower Hillers will hold their monthly Luncheon on Wednesday, April 23rd at Noon at Café Euro. Hosts will be John and Phyllis Yohe. For information, please call the 412-279-7795.

BookWorms

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

April 15: *The Nine* by Jeffery Toobin,
hostess Nancy Green

May 20: *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert,
hostess Nina Helbling

Scrapbook Saturday

It's that time again! Bring your albums and supplies and join us for another scrapbooking session Saturday April 5th from 9:00 to 3:00 PM. Stay as little or as long as you want! This is an informal get together with all skill levels welcome. Call Betsy Hohlfelder at 412-341-1029 with any questions.

MEMBER DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ONLINE

All church members with internet access can take advantage of the online pictorial directory provided by Olan Mills. This directory gives us the ability to view our members' pictures and our member roster used in the printed directory online. This is especially useful for those who did not get a copy of the directory or those who in future years lose their directory.



A password is necessary for viewing the directory. The only way to access our directory on the Olan Mills site is through a link on the church website. The link is in the "Members" section of our website which, in turn, can only be accessed by church members with a password, not by the general public.

If you haven't created a password to access the Members section of the website, you'll need to do this first. First go to the church website (www.bhccml.com) and click on Members. Then click on Register Now!, fill in the fields and click on Submit. You will receive an e-mail confirming your registration almost immediately, but it may take me a few days to activate your account. Once your account has been activated you will be informed by a second e-mail.

To access the online pictorial directory, first click on Members, enter your email address and password, and click on Sign In. There will be a menu on the right side of the page. Under the Contacts heading, click on Photo Directory. You will be presented with a screen that will display a password that will be needed on the Olan Mills site. Next click on the link [Access Photo Directory on Olan Mills Web Site](#). This will take you straight to Bower Hill's section on the Olan Mills web site. Click on Photo Directory (for the pictorial directory) or Our Members (for the entire roster), enter the password and click on Submit.

When you are done on the Olan Mills web site, click on Home, and then click on Return to Bower Hill's Web Site. If you have any trouble registering for the Members section on our site or accessing the online directory, call Glenn Child at 412-831-3429.

Note: We will do our best to keep the roster information on the Olan Mills Web Site synchronized with any changes submitted to the church office. If you notice an inaccuracy, please let Glenn know.

ADULT EDUCATION IN APRIL

Please join us for Adult Ed in April as we discuss ways to put feet to our faith and to share God's love in a **practical way**. We will be using the Small Group curriculum which was created to coordinate with the Faith in Action initiative. The materials are designed to build on the overall concept of loving our neighbors in a manner that follows Jesus' teaching and example. Each week is built around the following themes:



Adult Education

Week 1 (March 30th) DETOUR: God uses "detours" to get our attention and help us see what's really important.

Week 2 (April 6th) LENS: When we refocus our vision we will begin to see the world as God does.

Week 3 (April 13th) DROP: God uses small things and multiplies the results. We can each make a difference.

Week 4 (April 27th) PARTY: We experience joy and spiritual rewards when we put our faith in action.

Hoping to see you at 10:45 for these important small group sessions. Your voice and ideas are very important to the discussion!



**FROM THE
YOUTH DIRECTOR**

April marks the beginning of a new collaboration at BHCC. The Boy Scouts and the Youth Department will be holding an event on April 27th to celebrate Earth Day.

This combined effort will serve as the first of a forthcoming series of events. It is the sentiment of both the Youth Department as well as the Scouts, that both organizations can benefit each other and our community. The Earth Day celebration will take place after worship, as we plant and commemorate a Norwegian Spruce near the North Parking Lot. A cookout will follow.

The High School mission trip planning is moving along. Our church will send twelve ambassadors to the Eastern Shore of Virginia/Maryland. The only missing piece of the puzzle is a female chaperone. The trip will last from June 29th to July 5th. We need a volunteer who is willing to drive a minivan. Our chaperones from last year, Judy Lunoe and Tim Lease, are willing to answer any questions. If any women are interested, contact the church or email Brian at br@bhccml.com.

EVENTS

4/13 Middies Water Night 6:30-8:30

4/27 Earth Day Picnic with Scouts, after Worship

5/4 Spaghetti Dinner

6/7 Pancake Breakfast

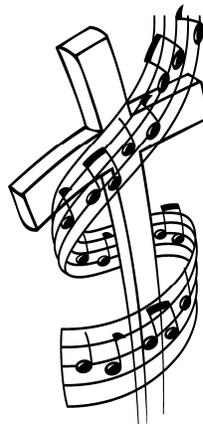
6/15 Youth Sunday

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

The North Hills Handbell Association presents the Thirty-Second Annual Festival, at Marshall Middle School, April 26, 2008. Please try to attend the 5.00 pm public concert to support the Bower Hill Handbell Choir.

Directions from I-79 South:

Take the Exit 75 (old 23) to Warrendale, Rt. 19. When you reach Rt. 19, turn right. Shenot Road will be at the next stoplight. Turn right onto Shenot Road. Continue until you come to a stop sign (a T in the road). It is about a mile, then turn right on Wexford Run Road. Go up the hill until you see the sign for Marshall Middle School in the right. Marshall Middle School is on the left. The other school is an elementary school.



Handbell Choir
Thursdays at 6.30pm

Chancel Choir
Thursdays at 7.45pm

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE OFFICES OF
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

TITLE OF THE POSITION: The Office of Elder

The purpose of an Elder as set forth in “The Book of Order” of The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is...”together with ministers of the Word, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church-at-large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as members of the Session.”

“The Book of Order” also assigns specific responsibilities to Elders serving on the Session which include individually and jointly strengthening and nurturing the faith and life of the congregation, teaching, motivating, guiding and encouraging the congregation for their task within the church and their mission in the world, actively participating in all activities in the life of the church, i.e. worship, education, fellowship, etc, visiting, comforting and caring for the people, with special attention to the poor, the sick, the lonely and the oppressed, informing the pastors, appropriate committee area, or support staff of persons who may need special attention, serving communion when assigned and maintaining the confidentiality of Session meetings.

TITLE OF THE POSITION: The Office of Deacon

The focus of the Board of Deacons is to reach out to church members by parish zone, cultivating new relationships, exploring member’s needs and supporting them however possible. Individually, each deacon has been in touch with those in their zone by way of a visit, a phone call and/or cards. Deacons have provided meals for church members and made many home, hospital and phone visits.

TITLE OF THE POSITION: The Nominating Committee

This committee is responsible for organizing the search and presentation of nominations for election for any open Session and Deacon positions as a result of end of term or resignation. At the end of the Church year, the committee also presents nominations for the congregation representation positions on the Nominating Committee. The two Session members on this committee also are responsible for attending the Presbytery meetings. This committee is a good opportunity for fellowship and to be involved in the direction of selecting the congregation leadership.

After giving thought to the above position descriptions,

I would like to suggest _____ for the office of:

(circle all that apply):

Elder

Deacon

Nominating Committee

Please return this form to the church office

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

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL

USHERS

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Marian Brannan, Glen Child, Betty Ewing, Pete Fenton, Christine Henney, LuAnn McNickle, Curt Philson, Kathy Philson; Choir: Lee Ferrero and Lynn Wohleber

GREETERS

April 6: Laufer, Lamb, Lease, Linaburg

April 13: Litten, Lunoe, Curt & Kathy Philson, Ruh

April 20: Chan Ketchum, McNickle, Ramaley, Snead

April 27: McAnulty, Noland, Rising, Warnock

LECTORS

April 6: Sally Child

April 13: Betty Ewing

April 20: Kirsten Bruder

April 27: Amanda Vosburgh

WORSHIP INFORMATION

April 6:

Sermon: Faith in Action
Communion

April 13:

Sermon: Faith in Action

April 20:

No Sunday Morning Worship or Programming

BE THE CHURCH!

See page 2 for Faith in Action Activities

5:30 Party in Fellowship Hall

April 27:

Sermon: Faith in Action
Conformation Sunday



Campbell.

“Please bless these chops, these peas and these potatoes, both actual and couch.”

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

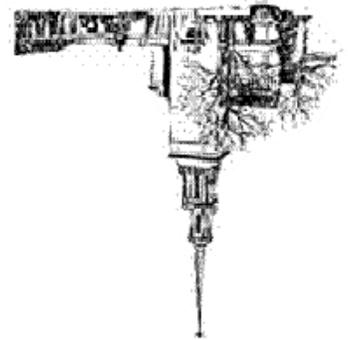
em@bhccml.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:15am—3:15 pm

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



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BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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