

# BOWER HILL NEWS

*Again! Again!*

**MAY 2008**

For those of you who missed the Sunday night celebration dinner for the “Don’t Go to Church...Be the Church,” Faith in Action Event, you missed a momentous event! As we gathered for dinner and prepared to pray, I said, “I am speechless!” I know it is hard to imagine, but it did indeed happen. I was indeed, for a few moments at least, rendered speechless by the beauty of the day. If I had to pick one word to describe the day; beautiful might be my choice. It was beautiful to see the church come together to care for cancer patients, homeless women, the environment, and the autism community. It was beautiful to see our family of faith coming together for a common purpose. It was beautiful to see patient and caring adults working side by side with young children. It was beautiful to see the fellowship of new friends being gently formed and of old friends reconnecting away from the busyness of life. It was beautiful to see all the good that could be done for the community just by canceling worship for the morning. It was beautiful to see the love of God alive in this place through the faith in action that took place. Needless to say, I am no longer speechless!

One of my favorite things about the day was the sense of peace that surrounded the workspace where the work was being done. As you can well imagine, the wonderfully generous servant leaders on the Mission Action Team that put this together, spent a tremendous amount of time planning and carrying out the Faith In Action experience. I imagine, like most big projects, there were moments of urgency and anxiety during the months and weeks and days before “Don’t Go to Church” day and yet, there was a spirit of calm and beauty that permeated the entire event on April 20th. Leonard and I can never express our gratitude and appreciation for the time and energy the team and many helpers put in. It is rare that so many people are willing to invest so much of themselves in any endeavor.

It was such a beautiful day that embodied all that being the church is about and I can’t help but think of something that my children were fond of saying when they were small and when they experienced something wonderful. They would cry out: “AGAIN! AGAIN!” It is a true tribute to the work of the Mission Action Team that they have clearly tapped into the DNA of this congregation and its call to be a community church united in ministry and mission in the world. The next step for all of us is how do we keep the momentum going. Happily, there are many opportunities to share God’s love with the community and one another mentioned in this newsletter. We don’t have to look far for what we can do next, whether it is helping the refugee families at SHIM, marching for Darfur, or joining in fellowship at the Sunday School picnic; there are opportunities to grow in faith and fellowship together. In addition to these upcoming opportunities, I implore you to continue to pray about how God is calling Bower Hill to live out the vision of being a Community Church with a heart for mission. It is my hope that a few people will come forward with the desire to help develop a plan to provide a monthly intergenerational mission project for our community of faith to participate in together. In this way, we will celebrate what we have already done with a renewed purpose for what else we can do, again and again and again. Let us together, continue to spread the beauty of God’s love. Rev. Laurie



**Being the Church!  
Faith in Action**

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## FAITH IN ACTION: THE NUMBERS

During the **8<sup>TH</sup>** year of the **21<sup>ST</sup>** century on the **20<sup>th</sup>** day of the **4<sup>th</sup>** month . . .

**37** people (and **1** baby) worked on trail maintenance in the **55** acres of Kane Woods. At the end of the day that amounted to **37** muddy people, **2** lost shoes, and **1** HUGE pile of trimmings and trash.

**39** people (**26** adults, **12** youth (and **1** baby) spent **3** hours making pillows for breast cancer patients at St. Clair Hospital. Although, it was originally planned to make **47** pillows the end result was **91** pillows, **54** get-well cards and **2** Sponaugle children who learned what a sewing machine looks like (and how to use it).

**35** people (**27** adults and **8** youth) made lunches for the women of Miryam's house. In **2 ½** hours they made **70** sandwiches, **2** VATS of pasta salad, **2** VATS of fruit salad, **16** dozen chocolate chip cookies, and **7** dozen snicker doodles. The youth rolled out and decorated over **300** teeny, tiny sugar cookies (in the shapes of hearts and flowers). Later that day **10** of the people spent **1 ½** hours serving the ladies lunch.

That afternoon **35** people spent **2** hours learning about autism-the signs and symptoms, possible causes, and what the general community can do to help. Over **2** dozen informative pamphlets and flyers were also available to attendees. And most importantly a panel of **4** women who are parents of children with autism were touched that Bower Hill Church cared enough to put on the forum.

All this because **1** church service was canceled.

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

### Items Needed

<b>Bathroom</b>	over the door hooks, baskets bath mats, rugs, waste baskets laundry hampers, towels
<b>Living Room</b>	small lamps, small coffee tables, TV stands, radios decorative items, picture frames, 3 M hooks, small/medium book shelves pillows, curtains, area rugs
<b>Bedrooms</b>	sheets / blankets (all sizes) curtains/ hangers
<b>Kitchen</b>	oven mitts, any cooking tool, pots and pans, baking dishes, dish towels, dishes, coffee/tea cups
<b>Baby Items</b>	clothing, baby swings, Bouncers
<b>Clothing</b>	especially small sizes and kids

### Spring Cleaning?

The Koinonia group has decided that we would like to continue to "Put our Faith in Action" by collecting gently used items for the refugee families at Prospect Park. As many of you know, often these families arrive from war-torn areas with virtually nothing more than a few suitcases. They are required to find a job and start to work in a very short time and also have to repay the airfare for coming to the United States.

It seemed like a natural for our group to continue the wonderful work that was done with the Prospect Park Family Support Center in Diane Leeson's memory, and to reach out and assist these families with needed household items. Can you help us? Please look at the list below and as you do your spring cleaning, please keep in mind sharing with these families. Additionally, please spread the word to family, friends and neighbors and encourage them to donate as well.

We have been given permission to use 1/2 of the Middle School Sunday School room to collect our items. It is the room beneath the chapel, and it has an outside door that is easily accessible to the parking lot. We will store our things near the windows (away from the couch/chairs that are used on Sunday mornings.) The collection will take place for the entire month of May. If you are interested in helping to transport the donations to Prospect Park and be on hand when the families select their items, please give Betsy Hohlfelder a call.



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

### Pittsburgh Walk Now for Autism

The Bower Hill Community Church walking team will for the fourth year take part in the Pittsburgh Walk Now for Autism on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at Heinz Field. Registration will begin at 8:00 am and the three-mile walk will start at 10:00am.

#### **AUTISM FACTS from Autism Speaks:**



Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. It is part of a group of disorders known as autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Today 1 in 150 individuals is diagnosed with autism, making it more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined. It occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups and is four times more likely to strike boys than girls. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

In our congregation, the pastors' two boys are both on the spectrum. Both of them are on the less severe side of the spectrum. There are many, many others just in our locality on all parts of the spectrum.

The goal of Autism Speaks is to change the future for all struggling with autism spectrum disorders.

To join the Bower Hill Community Church walking team, contact Jim and Joan McAnulty at 412-833-8450 or [jhmcanulty@comcast.net](mailto:jhmcanulty@comcast.net) To donate to Autism Speaks, make your check payable to BHCC with memo Autism Speaks, then place it in the collection plate or send it to the church office. The funds collected will then be given as one check to Autism Speaks. Let's again show Leonard, Laurie, Rebekah, Andrew and Joshua we care by walking for and/ or contributing to Autism Speaks.

### A Family Affair

Sunday, May 4 from 3 to 6:30 PM the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will host *A Family Affair: Joyful Noise '08*, a benefit to aid East Liberty Family Health Care Center. Picnic style food, music, a silent auction, games for children and the Zany Umbrella Circus will be featured. Adults are \$60 and children under 18 are \$10. \$40 of each adult ticket sold is a tax-deductible contribution to the center. For more information contact Dave Brewton by email: [dbrewton@elfhcc.com](mailto:dbrewton@elfhcc.com)



### SHIM Holocaust Observance

The 29th annual Holocaust Observance is scheduled for Sunday, May 4, 2008 at 7:00 PM at Temple Emmanuel. 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".



### 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](mailto:jumphook@gmail.com) or 412-892-8842 or talk to Rev. Laurie or Rev. Leonard.

### Food Bank Needs

On Sunday, May 11 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.). Also appreciated are chunky or hearty varieties of various soups.**



CLERK'S COMMENTS BY PHYLIS YOHE

### March Session Highlights

- Two termite infested maples trees by the front entrance of the church will be removed; also, an overgrown hemlock in front of the library window.
- In return for the year round use of 18 parking spots closest to the Family Hospice, they will take care of the snow removal/salting of that lot.
- A fundraiser for Hekima Place was approved for July 12, 2008 at Bower Hill.



Clerk's Comments

### Book Worms

Bookworms meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM, in the home of a member, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title.



Book Worms

#### **May 20:**

*Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert  
Hostess: Nina Helbling

#### **June 17:**

*Dark of the Moon* by John Sandford  
Hostess: Anne Mitchell

#### **July 15:**

*Animal, Vegetables, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver  
Hostess: Joan McAnulty

#### **August 19:**

*I'm Proud of You, My Friendship with Fred Rogers*  
by Tim Madigan- place to be decided.

### Bower Hillers Luncheon

The Bower Hillers will meet at Piccolina's May 28th at 12:00 PM for their monthly luncheon. The cost is \$17.00 per person. Dr. David Scofield, Director of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Museum of Rural Life, will speak after the meal. Reservations are due by May 22nd. Please contact Betty Ruh or the office for more details.

### Presbytery Baseball Night

The Pittsburgh Presbytery will be hosting a special night at the ball park to welcome all their churches and members on Friday, June 6th at 7:05 PM. A choir made up of 250 Presbyterian Church choir members will be performing the national anthem. Tickets are \$9 and \$20 with a portion of sales being donated to the Presbytery Mission. Church with 20 or more attending will be seated together and receive recognition with their group name on the LED board during the game. Contact Brian for more information via the office or at br@bhccml.

### Remembering Loved Ones

Have you ever noticed the beautiful flowers at the front of the church during the Sunday services? They are donated by different members of the church each week in honor or memory of loved ones and then delivered by the Deacons to members of the church who are sick, in the hospital or just in need of a pick me up.



Sanctuary Flowers

We also have a second option for the people who donate the flowers. This option will give the opportunity to make a cash donation to a charity in lieu of live flowers. Donations may be made to one of the many organizations supported by the church; for example, Washington City Mission, Sojourners House, South Hills Hospice, etc or for causes such as the BHCC Youth Group Work Trip or the Margaret McKee Fund. When we do not have live flowers, we will use silk flowers in their place.

Each donor donates once a year, typically at the same time each year. We have several dates available if you are interested in becoming a donor. There are a few people who don't mind switching dates, so if you have a different date you'd be interested in donating flowers for, it can't hurt to ask. Anyone interested in becoming a donor can call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.

### Vacation Bible School

Plans are underway for Rainforest Adventure, this year's Vacation Bible School experience. We have been blessed over the years with a tremendous group of talented volunteers who have shared the love of God with our wonderful children. Please consider joining the team this year, June 16-20, even if it is only for a day or two! Sign up sheets will be available after worship on May 5th, 11th, and 18th or see Rev. Laurie. Check your schedule and be a part of a life changing endeavor!



## YOUTH NOTES



FROM THE  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Changes are afoot! Do not fret, we are expanding. We are adjusting the *lens*. The youth of BHCC continue to enact new ideas. Upcoming youth events include:

### High School Bible Study is EVERY Tuesday

Join us from 7:00 – 8:30 as we consider the nature of reality, then we bowl; all in my office!

### “Knit for a Cause”

All are welcome to be a part of the new BHCC Knitting Circle. Meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. Help contribute, any skill level can be utilized

### Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Spaghetti Dinner

5-7:30PM, Tickets \$8 adult, \$4 under 12 and \$25 family; proceeds to support the Work Trip.

### Saturday, May 17 Middies event: Fill the Cart

We will have a contest to see who can stretch their \$ the furthest to replenish the Wallace Food Pantry. We will make a dessert run after the contest.

### Sat., June 7<sup>th</sup> 2nd Annual Pancake Breakfast

Once again sponsored by IOVINO'S CAFÉ. New sponsors include Coffee Tree and Wendy's; participation with the Scouts this year also. 9am-1pm (HS students should arrive at 8:00 am)

### Youth Sunday – June 15<sup>th</sup>\*

Thanks to the humble compassion of Jean Miewald, the High School Worktrip to Onancock, MD now has its 2<sup>nd</sup> chaperone! Tim Lease is the male chaperone. We are eternally grateful for these two soldiers and the sacrifice they will be living out during the week of June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to contact me with questions and/or concerns: email (br@bhccml.com) or 412.867.8139.

### Adult Education for May 4, 11, & 18:

#### Why Christians (Should) Care about Social Justice

Like all people of good will, Christians should care about social justice. But Christians also have special reasons as Christians to care about a just and peaceful society. We will look at the roots of Christian social justice in the early centuries of the church's life and how they continue to inform us today. The class will invite us to practice a deeper spirituality of justice today and will be presented by the Rev. Dr. John Burgess. John is a professor of systematic theology. Burgess has taught at Pittsburgh Seminary since 1998 and is an ordained Presbyterian minister and a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

*\*Christian Education will end with the May 18th picnic and resume in September.*



Adult Education

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the individuals who have participated in providing music for worship throughout this program year. Soloists, instrumentalists, and especially the members of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs—you are all much appreciated. Thank you for your time and energy, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” ~Philippians 3-6

**Handbell Choir:** Thursdays at 6.30pm

**Chancel Choir:** Thursdays at 7.45pm

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC! COME CELEBRATE WITH YOUR FAMILY!

May 18th is the last Sunday of the education year at the church and we are going to celebrate!

We're going to celebrate our teachers! We're going to celebrate our graduates!

We're going to celebrate our choirs! We are going to celebrate a great year!

There will be a whole lot of celebrating going on!

After worship we will have games to keep the little ones busy during the last Middle School, Senior High and Adult education class. At 11:15 am we will begin to serve lunch to the early birds and there will be plenty of food and games for those attending classes at 11:45 am!

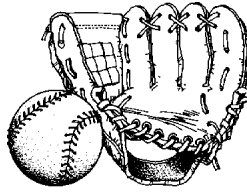
**Dress Casual for Worship!!! And bring a side dish or dessert to share!**

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and drinks will be provided!



**Bower Hill Softball – 2008**

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, our Bower Hill softball team began defense of the 2007 Chartiers Valley Church Softball League Championship. Bower Hill Community Church has fielded a team since the League’s inception in 1985. Since then 20 different churches have fielded teams.



In addition to Bower Hill, other churches participating in the league for 2008 are: Bethany Presbyterian Church, Christ United Methodist Church, First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights, Gladden United Presbyterian Church, Holy Child Catholic Church, Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church. The National Softball Association sanctions the CVCSL and our purpose is to bring glory to God, promote Christian fellowship and to serve as an outreach program for its member churches.

Come out and support our team. The games are played at McLaughlin Run Park Field which is located on McLaughlin Run Road (the end closer to Bower Hill Rd. and Bridgeville). If you would like more information, you can contact Tom Hayes at 412-221-6065, email [thayes@itechadvisors.com](mailto:thayes@itechadvisors.com)) or Brian Hayes at 412-867-8139, email [br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com).

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 22-Apr	8:15	Christ United Methodist
Thursday 1-May	6:45	Holy Child
Wednesday 7-May	6:45	Westminster
Wednesday 14-May	6:45	Our Lady of Grace
Open Week		
Tuesday 27-May	6:45	Bethany Red
Tuesday 3-Jun	8:15	Bethany Blue
Tuesday 10-Jun	6:45	Gladden
Wednesday 18-Jun	8:15	Mt. Lebanon
		United Methodist
Wednesday 25-Jun	6:45	Crafton Heights
Thursday 3-Jul	6:45	Bethany Red
Tuesday 8-Jul	6:45	Our Lady of Grace
Tuesday 15-Jul	8:15	Crafton Heights
Thursday 24-Jul	6:45	Bethany Blue
Tuesday 29-Jul	8:15	Holy Child

**Pentecost Geraniums**

DECORATE THE CHURCH OR YOUR OWN GARDEN



Any proceeds help:

The Senior High Work Trip

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\$4.50 for one 4 inch pot.

Number of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plants on May 18th. \_\_\_\_\_

I will leave them to be planted at BHCC. \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Church Office, or drop in the Sunday Collection Plate by Sunday, May 4th.

Orders can be taken from Sunday, April 27th through Sunday, May 4th.

THANK YOU!!

## 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  
 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  
 Evelyn Mason, Health Center at Friendship Village, 1290 Boyce Road, Upper St. Clair 15241



**The Prine family  
 regrets to inform their  
 Family of Faith that  
 their son, Roger, has  
 passed away.**

## WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY

### USHERS

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

### COMMUNION SERVERS

LuAnn McNickle, Tom and Debbie Hayes, Ben and Jackie Holdsworth, Linda and Phil Johnson, Ron Linaburg  
 Choir: Jean Miewald, Joan Zakor

### GREETERS

**May 4:** Prunchak/Pattison/Olinger  
**May 11:** Schofield/Swed/Starr  
**May 18:** Holdsworth/Vosburgh/Waller/Winnett

### LECTORS

**May 4:** Susan Hicks  
**May 11:** Alan Hohlfelder  
**May 18:** Kirsten Bruder

### WORSHIP INFORMATION

#### May 4

John 17:1-11; Rev. Leonard

#### May 11

Pentecost Sunday: Acts 2:1-21; Rev. Leonard

#### May 18

Celebration Sunday- Recognizing Teachers,  
 Graduates and Bible Presentation;  
 Matthew 28:16-20;  
 (church picnic after worship and Sunday School)

#### May 25

Memorial Day Sunday; Rev. John Yohe



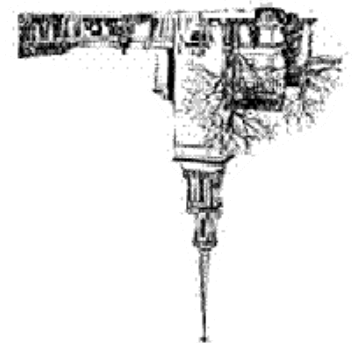
**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

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



BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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