

BOWER HILL NEWS

WHAT IF?

JUNE 2008

In that wonderful old movie, *Dead Poet's Society*, Robin Williams plays the role of a teacher who inspires his students to "Seize the Day!" and for some reason, I keep thinking about the power of that call. With the lazy summer days and the promise of vacation approaching, I have been wondering about what those of us who take a break in the summer will be doing with our time. Will we use do what we have always done and take a much needed break? Or will we "Seize the Day!" and look for new opportunities to make a difference in the world? Vacation Bible School and the upcoming Youth Mission Trip will be two wonderful examples of how some will be able to "Seize the Day" and make a difference in the lives of others, but I can't help thinking, what if each one of us spent some time considering and preparing for the summer by making plans to intentionally make a difference in the few weeks of the summer that we are blessed with?

What if we looked for opportunities to serve one another in a more intentional way? What if the church really focused some of its time in the weeks ahead on providing mission and service opportunities when people were just a little less busy? What if we together and individually committed ourselves to "Seizing the Days" by reaching out in big and little ways to show God's love and compassion to the world? Imagine how the world could be changed! Imagine how we would be changed! Imagine what a difference we could make together and on our own!

There are many opportunities to do mission work that we encounter every day! The Faith in Action experiment reminded us that we don't have to look very far to encounter God's detours and to see opportunities to show mercy and to do justice. Faith in Action also reminded us that even little things can make a big difference, sometimes even more than we can imagine. What if, each day we seized the opportunity to "do something beautiful for God?" as the song by Brian Sirchio says. It's hard to imagine what kind of impact that could have. I wonder?

I invite you to wonder with me and to join me in making a commitment to "Seize the Day" and to "Seize the Moments" that we are presented with this summer and let us find opportunities to share our stories with one another of how we are imagining this what if into reality! May God bless you with and abundance of opportunities to love and serve this summer!

Blessings,

REV. LAURIE



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MISSION ACTION TEAM 1 CELEBRATES TV-TURNOFF WEEK

DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 21ST,

MAT 1 invited local youth to celebrate National TV-Turnoff Week here at Bower Hill. As part of this nationwide effort to help families reassess the role that TV plays in their lives, we offered a number of activities to children as an alternative to the passive “non-activity” that fills so many hours of their days. The programs were announced to neighborhood school children via flyers, and the response from the eighteen children who attended, and their parents, was overwhelmingly positive. (Just one criticism: could we get the word out earlier next year, so more of their friends could plan on coming?)

ON WEDNESDAY,

we kicked off the day with outdoor games, assisted by Logan Schardt and Abby Waine. After some after-school energy was burned off, the children visited the choir room with Brian Hayes and Jessica Baier. Brian and Jessica gave a uniquely styled music “lesson,” during which the youngsters explored the inner workings of a piano and learned the pleasures of playing chords and singing in harmony. Logan, with her clarinet, accompanied Jessica on the piano while the youngsters made music with their voices. Later, Brian demonstrated the different sounds made by acoustic and electric guitars. The parents watching from the doorway of his office grinned with appreciation.



ON THURSDAY,

we welcomed a presentation by a spokesman from Venture Outdoors. The children climbed in and out of a kayak while they learned how and why it was built differently from other watercraft. The hands-on exploration was followed by a video showing all of the outdoor activities that can be enjoyed in our region. Next, Theresa Child helped the youth bake and decorate cupcakes baked in ice cream cones – a real hit. There wasn’t a minute of downtime; while the “cone-cakes” were baking, Glenn Child and Doris Olinger coordinated beach ball-volleyball games in Fellowship Hall.



ON FRIDAY,

Marion Brannan provided card stock and inspiration for handmade Mother’s Day cards, and each child was encouraged to choose words and phrases that conveyed a personal sentiment. When the cards were completed, the children painted flowerpots and planted petunias for gift giving. And while the flowerpots dried, the youth separated into two teams for “Another Great Race,” a treasure hunt led by Scott Olinger and Doug Rowles that took them inside, outside, up, down and all around, following the delightfully clever clues left by Glenn and Theresa.



AS A TEAM,

we decided to try this experiment knowing we had very little lead-time for planning and preparation. We were fortified by our beliefs that the spiritual needs of many children are being overlooked and that we, as a faith community, have an abundance of resources with which to meet those needs. As this experiment confirmed, children are quite open to new experiences, new people and new purposes. The team learned a lot from this experiment, and we hope it is the first of many experiences that offer local children the joy that comes from fellowship and the pleasure that comes from giving.



OUR THANKS TO BRIAN, JESSICA, LOGAN, ABBY, SCOTT AND DOUG, AND TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO BE ON-CALL FOR THE WEEK.

-Mary Beth Waine, Doris Olinger, Kirsten Bruder, Marian Brannan, Glenn Child, and Karen Zoll

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

A Little Comfort



As many of you know, because of the wonderful turnout for our Faith in Action sewing project in April, we were able to make nearly double the number of pillows that we had hoped to make for recovering breast cancer patients.

Although the primary recipient of our pillows will be St. Clair Hospital and their patients, we wanted to make the pillows available to members of our congregation to give away if they become aware of a need. If you know of a family member or friend who could benefit from the gift of one of these pillows, please ask Betsy Hohlfelder or Mary Good and we will make sure that you have one to give. Each pillow comes with a small tag pinned on it that indicates that it was lovingly made by the members of Bower Hill Community Church.

Save the Date for Hekima Place

On Saturday, July 12th, we will be sponsoring a fund raiser for Hekima Place from 7PM to 9PM. We are planning an African Bazaar featuring fair trade crafts, African sweet treats, African Dances and an African Storyteller in addition to information about Hekima Place.

Food Bank Needs

On Sunday, **June 8th** 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.**

SHIM Needs Volunteers



South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM) is looking for volunteers in the following areas:
 Front Desk Receptionist
 Data Entry
 Food Pantry
 Dollar Energy Assistance
 Homework Club Tutors

All positions are flexible regarding days and times. Volunteers are also needed to serve on board subcommittees. Please call Maggie Winter at 412-854-9120 x 10 for more information.

THANKS FOR FAITH IN ACTION INITIATIVE



On behalf of St. Clair Hospital, The Cancer Center at St. Clair, and our post surgical breast cancer patients, I want to thank the Bower Hill Community Church for their time, effort and generosity in sewing and stuffing 91 pillows for our out patients. I have already given out two pillows and when I pointed out the identification tag on the pillows to the ladies, they were speechless. I explained that this was a project organized by the Bower Hill Community Church to reach out and serve their community. They were very touched by this kind gesture. It was very gratifying for me to tell them about The Bower Hill Community Church and the success of your Community Action Day.

Please share my sincere thanks and appreciation to all for their time and effort and especially their thoughtfulness of our patients.

Sincerely,
 Karen Gasper RN, BSN, OCN, CHPN
 Cancer Care Specialist

Dear Bower Hill Community Church Members,



Thank you so much for the help your volunteers gave us cleaning up the Kane Woods Nature Area on April 19th. We are so grateful you chose to help us out this year.

In spite of the overcast skies and the mud which resulted from the previous night's rain, the volunteers collected a huge amount of trash. The pile was so large that it took five trips with a truck to get it all to the dumpster. It would have taken us a very long time to accomplish what was accomplished by your group in just a few hours.

We hope that your members will come back to Kane Woods later this summer and enjoy the area. For the next several months, there will be a lot of work occurring connected with the development of Providence Point, but we expect it will be completed by July. A large area will also have been replanted with vegetation native to Pennsylvania that will provide habitat friendly to wildlife.

We would like to extend a special invitation to you to come to our official trail opening event on July 20th at our Whiskey Point Trailhead. We are currently in the planning stage of the event which will be coordinated with activities being held at Old Saint Luke's and The Neville House that weekend to commemorate the Whiskey Rebellion.

Thank you again for all your help.

Sincerely,
 Robert M. Gamble, President
 The Scott Conservancy

Vacation Bible School

It is not too late to register for VBS. This year's theme is Rainforest Adventure! For children in preschool through 5th grade (3-year-olds welcome to participate with a parent present), VBS runs June 16th through the 20th, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. The registration fee is \$15. Also needed are older children and adults to volunteer their services during this week of fun and learning. Contact the office at office@bhccml.com or 412-561-4114 for a registration form or to volunteer.

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.

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: *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri- place to be decided.

Bower Hillers Luncheon

The Bower Hillers will meet at Peter's Place in Bridgeville on June 25 at noon for their monthly luncheon. The cost will be \$17.00 per person. David Brewton of East Liberty Family Health Care Center will provide a musical program titled "From Bower Hill to Broadway" after the meal. Reservations are due by June 19. Please contact Jim or Joan McAnulty (412-833-8450) or the office for more details.

Congratulations!

Rev. John Yohe will celebrate his 50th Anniversary of Ordination June 10th!

**BOWER HILL NEWS****April Session Highlights**

- The Session approved devotional; *Bible Journey*, will be given to the children from Kindergarten through sixth grade as a summer devotion.
- A "Promotion Team" will be formed under the auspices of the Evangelism and Membership Committee, whose express purpose will be to work to promote and/or develop ways of advance planning for advertising the fine things that are happening at BHCC.
- \$2,000 from the Margaret McKee Fund will be given to Betsy Hohlfelder in support of her mission trip to Africa as a part of her mission for Infinite Family.

Submitted by Phyllis Yohe

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

Summer is here! There are many opportunities for you to share your music during the summer Worship services. If you are not involved in the Bower Hill ensembles because of various reasons, this is a great time to do something that doesn't take up much time. **Anything goes...** vocalists (solo or group), instrumentalists (solo or group), classical or contemporary; you are welcome. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex where you can write your name on a specific Sunday for music. If you want to do something but are unsure of what you want to do, or have any questions, talk with Jessica.

**"Sing joyfully to the Lord,
you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.
Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on
the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to Him a new song; play
skillfully, and shout for joy!"**

~Psalm 33:1-3

YOUTH NOTES



The month of June is pivotal for the Youth of BHCC. We, of course, embark on the mission work trip to Onancock, Maryland. We also will enact a Youth Sunday Service on June 15th. This service offered a special moment last year as we graciously experienced a sendoff prayer from our congregation. Additionally, we enact our final fundraiser, the Pancake Breakfast on June 7th. We are fortunate that Iovino's Café is once again willing to sponsor this event. Jeff and Carol Iovino helped cook and serve during our Earth day BBQ last month. We had great weather and great food. The food was provided by the Youth Committee and the weather was a gift from God. We are all enthusiastic about continuing the Pancake Breakfast as an annual event.

Youth Sunday is on June 15th. We are excited to deliver praise and gratefulness. This year we will feature many different styles of music; from Southern Gospel to Soul to Rock & Roll. If there are any members of our congregation who feel they could assist in worship with musical ability, please notify either myself or Jessica Baier. We can utilize any degree of talent or willingness.

We have all but one of the twelve students last year returning to the work trip from last year. Jake Zoll will join us as a newcomer. Ann Richardson is traveling from her new home in Michigan to once again engage in servitude with us. The other ten students from our congregation are Allison Lease, Kelsey Ramaley, Carly Lunoe, Ben Holfelder, Tim May, Michael Waine, R.J. Henney, Evan Schardt, Stephen Patrick, and Dylan Lease. Please keep them and our two chaperones: Tim Lease and Jean Miewald in your prayers as they serve others from June 29th – July 5th.

The BHCC Knitting Circle is working hard! Our first official meeting on May 18th was a success. We are knitting caps and blankets for Cancer Patients in St. Clair Hospital during the interval leading up to our next meeting on June 15th (3:00 pm). This next meeting will afford the experience of handing out our donations personally to the patients.

IMPORTANT DATES

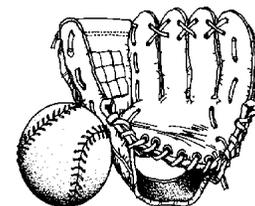
- **HS Bible Study is now on Monday Nights**
7:00 – 8:30 PM
 - **6/1 High School Parents**
Mission Trip Meeting 10:45 AM (Lounge)
 - **6/1 High School Brunch**
11:45 AM
- **6/3 Softball Team Fan Appreciation Night**
8:15 PM@ McLaughlin Run Park
 - **6/7 Pancake Breakfast**
9:00 AM – 1:00 pm
 - **6/15 YOUTH 6/22 Middies**
WILDWOOD HIGHLANDS 2:00 – 5:30 PM
(we need drivers, please contact me if you are willing)

If there are any questions, contact Brian Hayes at br@bhccml.com or leave a message with the office.

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

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

All games are held at McLaughlin Run Park.



THE STRATEGY FOR GROWTH!

Once in a while I run across something that accurately and powerfully describes our situation in the mainline church and here at Bower Hill. The article below describes the situation that Bower Hill was formed in and then describes the situation we find ourselves in now. As you read it I hope you will see how powerfully our Surfing the Edge process is working. I am convinced we are moving in the right direction. Bower Hill is absolutely in the same physical location it has been in since 1954 but oh my how things have changed in (54) years.

The Church of "Come and See" or "Go and Do"?
by Christian Piatt

Almost every mainline church in America is looking to repackage what they do in order to bring in new worshipers. Unfortunately, in many cases, very little has changed about what we do as church aside from the packaging itself. Increasingly, words such as "nontraditional," "contemporary," "praise," and "blended" are hooked onto the word "worship" in an effort to tell everyone beyond the walls that we're not their grandparents' organ-and-hymn church anymore. Come see us, pretty please! We're cool, really! We're down, yo. Check us out!

We toss out some new logos, learn a few upbeat songs, add a guy with spiky hair and a guitar, and then sit back and pray that things change, that the coveted young families who will save our aging churches from the brink of insolvency will appear.

As my old shrink was prone to say, "So, how's that working out for you?"

Recently I led a three-day summit in Kansas City about the place of young adults within the current church. I talked at great length about a number of topics, including the growing ineffectiveness of the old "attractional church" model.

Several decades ago, the church benefited from several social dynamics. People moved less often, divorced less, kept the same job forever, and generally stayed close to home. The concept of community was very centralized and relatively constant.

On top of this, there was a swell of confidence after the Second World War in institutions. From Roosevelt's New Deal to the triumph of the good guys against Nazi Germany, we embraced idealism as a community value, as well as those institutions that represented those ideals.

In such a dynamic, the local church stood as a social, ideological, and cultural hub for the local community. If you grew up in the Methodist church, you were a Methodist, period. Of course, there was some church-hopping, but the very notion of surveying the multitude of faith options out there in the world was a relatively foreign concept.

In such an environment, the institutional image was a relatively positive one. It represented permanence, safety, and security: all values highly sought at the time. Rather than having to aggressively seek out fringe-dwellers, churches focused more on meeting the needs of those already in their midst. A focus on programs became paramount, along with a trust that, as these programs became known in the community, people who needed them would come.

This, in essence, is what is now known as the "attractional model" for church. Though it had its day, many things have since rendered this way of doing church nearly irrelevant. People increasingly suspect all institutions, particularly religious ones, and they have fewer denominational ties without church as part of their upbringing. We are a highly mobile, decentralized, ever-discriminating, some might say skeptical or even cynical, culture.

What's more, the last thing we need is for church to reflect the culture we see every day outside the doors. For a while, churches decided that, to reach the MTV generation, they had to look more like MTV. Though this works with some on a superficial level, the feeling-driven spirituality of a high-production service takes us only so far, leaving many hungry for something spiritually richer, deeper, and more relevant to their notions of justice, transformation, and healing needed in the world.

Enter the "missional church" model. Instead of focusing on building up the programs that will draw the people in who we think we need to survive, we go out, less as firebrand evangelists and more as compassionate missionaries, ready to listen, to build community beyond the walls, and to serve.

Though worship used to be the point of entry for most people seeking a faith community, it actually is toward the end of the missional model cycle. We first build relationships in neutral territory, developing dialogue around "common ground" issues, climate change, poverty, and even our own personal stories bring us closer together—rather than focusing on potential wedge issues before the necessary mutual trust has been established.

From here, an organic sort of community emerges, engendering a sense of mutual trust and intimate care for one another that transcend ideological differences. Though the relationship may stay there for years, it also opens the door for invitation to deeper discipleship if the desire is clearly expressed. This is the point at which we find opportunities either inside or outside church to worship, study, serve, and share together, growing parallel in our spiritual lives. As for worship styles, those emerge from the passions and experiences of those who come, rather than being preordained by those who think they know what the public wants.

The hardest thing about the missional model of church is that it doesn't offer immediate results for churches obsessed with survival. Instead it focuses on discipleship in the active, culturally engaged sense. The beauty of this new vision for faith is that it can flourish whether or not our religious institutions fail. It demands more of us individually, but it offers the potential for much more in return.

So what would Jesus do? Would he spend time worrying about how to meet his church's budget, or would he get on with the business of cultivating disciples, one relationship at a time? To me the answer is clear.

**Faithfully,
Leonard**

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

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

Tooe 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

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE

USHERS

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Steve and Debbie Boisvert, Theresa Child, Mary Good, Gordon and Anne Mitchell, Bill Spangenberg, Dan Zabo

WORSHIP INFORMATION

June 1: Communion Sunday

Rev. Leonard is preaching on Matthew 7:21-29

June 8:

Rev. Laurie is preaching on Matthew 9:9-13 and -18-26
We will welcome new members Lisa Megyesy and Keith Mason

June 15: Youth Sunday

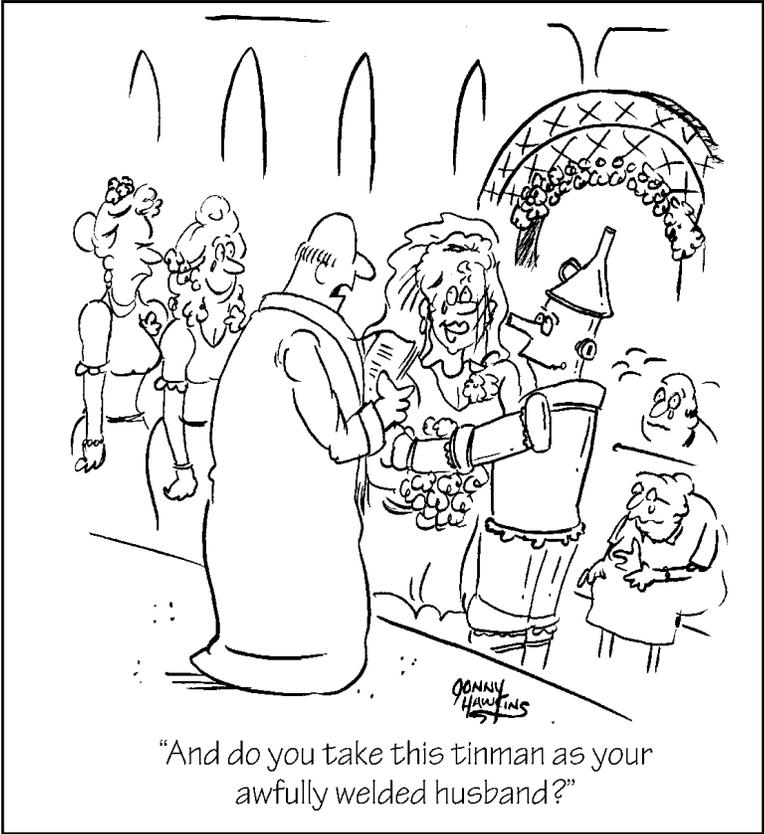
The Service will be led by the youth.

June 22: VBS Sunday

Rev. Laurie is preaching

June 29: Installation and Ordination Sunday

Rev. Leonard is preaching on Matthew 10:40-42



"And do you take this tinman as your awfully welded husband?"

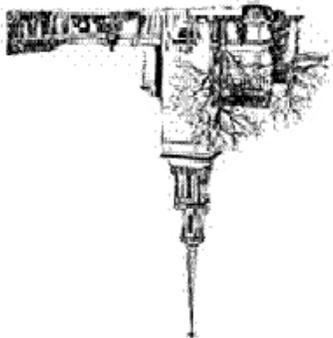
OUR CHURCH STAFF

- 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

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



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