

BOWER HILL NEWS

JULY 2008

A Very Presbyterian Way to Participate

One of the most faithful churches I know constantly asks every one of its members this question:

What is your ministry?

Underneath that question is the Calvinist theological understanding of Christian vocation. We Presbyterians believe God has work for us to do on God's behalf in God's world.

I love the expression "You can put lipstick on a pig, but it is still a pig." I especially love using it one sentence after Calvinist theological understanding. We live in a time and place where we like to dress up God's demand on us in phrases that validate our individuality. We have inventories that help us find our spiritual gifts. We love the quote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." — Frederick Buechner. And there is much value in the hope of a perfect match. But my experience has taught me that we often move towards perfection while doing good. And that too many of us stay back on the fringes of ministry waiting for the thing that just fits us perfectly.

I urge each one of you to reconsider what ministry you are doing right now and if in your reconsideration you discover you have more time and energy to give then offer it to God through your church. Besides wanting to make big and useful theological points, I offer this to you at this point in time because we are at the most convenient time in our church year for you to join in. Our new Session has been formed and we are recreating our Committees. We are a typical Presbyterian church the easiest and most effective way to participate is through the committee structure.

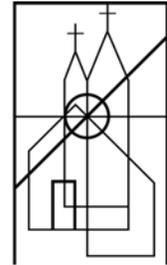
The following are the committees you can join and the person to contact:

- Buildings & Grounds – Chairperson Phil Johnson
- Christian Education (children) – staff support person Rev. Laurie Sponaugle
- Adult Education – Chairperson Nina Helbling
- Evangelism & Membership – Chairperson Jim McAnulty
- Finance & Stewardship – Treasurer Kurt Kerner
- Mission – Chairperson Steve Boisvert
- Music & Worship – Chairperson George Vosburgh
- Youth Ministries – Chairperson – D.J. Geiss

I hope each one of us lands exactly where God needs us and that place is exciting and rewarding. I am convinced some of you will find that place in the wonderful ministries that are available to you at Bower Hill.

Faithfully,

Leonard



**Find your
Ministry**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VBS	2
MISSION SUCCESS STORIES: WELL AT NTAJA HEKIMA PLACE PROSPECT PARK	3
MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: HEKIMA PLACE BENEFIT FOOD BANK TOILETRIES COLLECTION MUSIC NOTES CLERK'S COMMENTS	4
COMMUNITY NOTES	5
YOUTH NEWS	6
CARE LIST JULY VOLUNTEERS WORSHIP PLANS	7
HUMOR	8

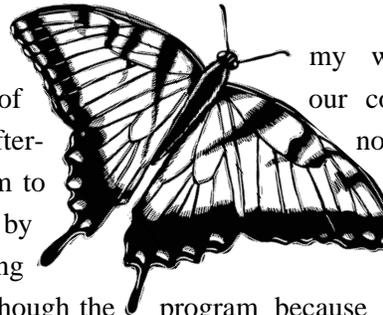
VBS REPORT



Rainforest Adventure at BHCC a Success

What an amazing week we had at Vacation Bible School last week! We had about 36 students and 36 helpers that came out to grow in faith and to share God's love. As always, I stand in awe of the incredible talent of this congregation and its tremendous generosity. I know that the students at VBS experienced a glimpse of how much God loved them this past week and I am truly grateful for all the support that we had to make this week memorable and transforming. I am profoundly thankful for the incredible help of Dawn Kane and Lori Schofield in helping to organize this year's adventure. They both gave countless hours and contributed to the success of last week more than they realize.

There were many things that happened that truly made memorable for me. From the very beginning, members of forward in record numbers to help. Every morning and after- teens keep coming to me and asking what I needed them to faces at Bible School this year because they were invited by to come and see something wonderful that was happening



my week in the Rainforest our congregation stepped for- noon at Bible School, our do. There were new members of our church here. There were also a number of older kids here that I have watched grow up though the program because they have returned year after year to experience this wonderful week of sharing God's love. One of my favorite memories of the week came when a preschool parent shared that her daughter had been talking about and demonstrating the lessons of sharing and giving that she had learned in Bible School. Another special memory of the week came when another parent mentioned that her son started crying on Friday because the week was over.

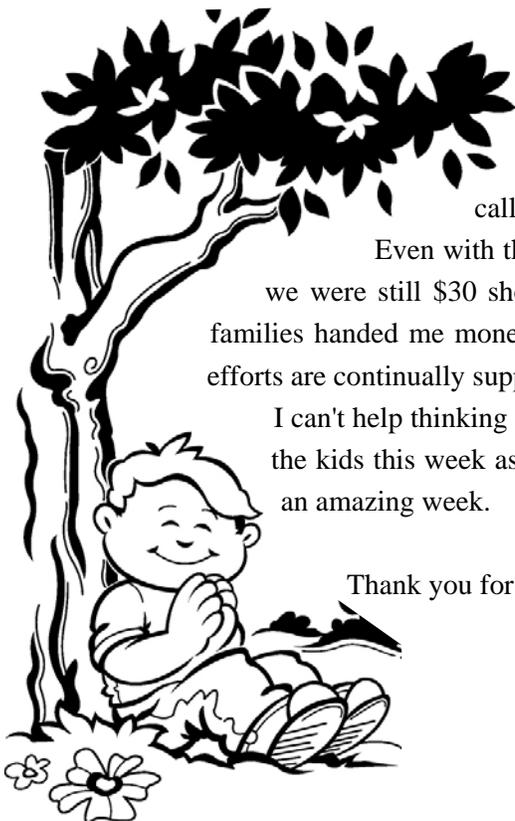
On Sunday morning during worship, we were able to offer a little glimpse of what happened during our week in the Rainforest, and I was shocked by the large number of kids and families who came to church to praise God and share the gift of the week with our congregation. During worship, we related that we had collected money for a mission project called Living Water for the World and our goal was \$200.00 for the week.

Even with the generosity of the kids and the way that our giving grew over the week, we were still \$30 short of our goal. The gifts continued to be offered after worship as two families handed me money and we exceeded our goal! It is such a blessing to the kids that their efforts are continually supported by this congregation!

I can't help thinking that as a church, we lived out many of the values that we were teaching to the kids this week as we shared our talents, gave our time, and showed our love. It was truly an amazing week.

Thank you for your prayers and your support for our Rainforest Adventure.

REV. LAURIE



MISSION SUCCESS STORIES

To the Well (at least) One More Time

Thanks to our partnership with the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi, the village of Ntaja has what we take for granted every day, clean water! The Session of Mbenjere added to our contributions and a borehole has been successfully drilled and is now supplying clean drinking water to the villagers of Ntala and the surrounding catchment area. October 2, 2008 was the official opening of the borehole and a wonderful celebration was held. Photos can be seen on the BHCC web site. The Session of BHCC has received a complete report of the drilling operation and a detailed expense report. The congregation of Mbenjere sends its "best wishes and greetings" and blessings to BHCC.

Try to imagine the idea that access to clean drinking water would be a reason for a community-wide celebration!



Ntala is not the first well BHCC has been a part of and it won't be the last. The Mission Committee is working in partnership with the local Rotary Club and Rotary International to drill what we hope will be two more boreholes in Malawi. There are several advantages to this partnership for the people of Malawi. The local Rotary club will match BHCC's contribution to the boreholes and Rotary International will match the combined contributions. This means BHCC's contributions will be multiplied four-fold. Our hopes are that we will be able to add two more borehole wells this year. There is a lot of paperwork to complete and hurdles

to overcome before we see our projects through to completion, but we have begun the process of bringing what we take for granted to our brothers and sisters in Malawi.

We can all drink to that!

Service Project



Several months ago, I met Kate Fletcher, one of the most inspiring people I know. She came to our church to speak about Hekima Place, a home and school she founded for orphaned girls in Kenya, Africa. After the service I asked her how I could help. She told me that the organization is greatly in need of school supplies and gently used girls' tennis shoes. I went to the principal of Jefferson Elementary School, Michael Schnirel, and he agreed to allow me to collect supplies from my fellow students.

I am please to report that the response was enthusiastic. This week, two suitcases of supplies from the Jefferson students, as well as members of our congregation, will be carried back to Hekima Place by Kate Fletcher's assistants. The remaining supplies will be shipped to Africa thanks to a generous grant from Bower Hill Church.

Thank you,

Amanda Vosburgh

Prospect Park "Yardsale"

Just wanted to thank all of you who helped to make our Prospect Park refugee family giveaway such a success.

On May 31st roughly 40 families lined up eager to take home items that the Koinonia group had collected from Bower Hill members and other friends. We had a huge selection of linens...and after 30 minutes there wasn't a towel, sheet, blanket or bedspread to be had. Amazing! And when we saw all of the clothes we had to give away, we figured we would be packing most of them

back up at the end of the day. Were we wrong! They were very popular and we could have even used some more of certain sizes. At the end of the day all of the left-over household items packed up into one small box.

Thanks to all for your donations and manpower...many people's lives are a little brighter for your efforts!



**PROSPECT
PARK**

A Touch of Africa – A benefit for Hekima Place

On Saturday, July 12th, from 7PM to 9PM, Bower Hill will be hosting a party to benefit Hekima Place, a home for girls in Kenya. We will have a market of Fair Trade crafts from Africa which will all be 10% off the marked price.



We will have African desserts and teas and coffees for you to sample before and after a performance and demonstration of African drumming and dancing by the Guinea-West Africa Drum and Dance Ensemble and we will end the evening with an African storyteller. A representative from Hekima Place (hopefully Kate Fletcher) will

also be there to answer any questions.

A free-will offering will be taken to support Hekima Place. To remind you of this event, we will be sending out via email a beautiful flier the week before. If you are not on the church's email list you can check out the flier on our website, www.bhccml.com

We'll see you there!!

Food Bank Needs

On Sunday, July 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.). Also appreciated are chunky or hearty varieties of various soups.

Neighbors helping Neighbors

One of the ways we partner with our neighbors at Family Hospice & Palliative Care is to periodically provide them with individual-sized toiletries (such as those we get during our hotel stays). The toiletries are included in comfort packages for individuals and families visiting loved ones. If you have items you would like to donate, please place them in the baskets in the narthex.

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

There are still 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

BOWER HILL NEWS**May Session Highlights:**

- **The yearly lease agreement with the DART program was approved.**
- **The financial audit of our church records for 2007 was accepted and approved. Many thanks to Gordon Mitchell and Jim Lawless.**
- **The Ordination/Installation of newly elected Elders and Deacons was set for June 29th.**

Phyllis Yohe
Clerk of Session

COMMUNITY NOTES

Flea Market News

PLEASE

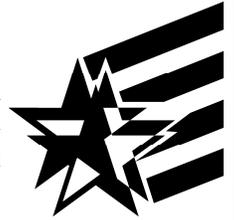
Do not include clothes, books or large furniture in your donation to the flea market. Thanks!

This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 22. Collection will begin immediately. All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours (9:15AM—3:15PM) or Sunday after worship. If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft, otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

Watch for more info on opportunities to help price and get ready for the 2008 flea market. If you have any questions please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.

Military Honors for Burke's Son

This July 4th, Bev and Jim Burke are traveling to San Diego for a ceremony for their son, Clint. Clint is being awarded a Silver Star and a Bronze Star with valor for his last deployment in Iraq. He served in Anbar Province, mainly Ramedi, working with tribal leaders. The Burkes were very grateful for your many prayers. He is currently enrolled in the Naval Postgraduate College in Monterey.



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

July 15: *Animal, Vegetables, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver, Hostess: Joan McAnulty

August 19: *Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri, Hostess: To Be Announced

Know Your Newsletter

Here are some tips for making the Bower Hill newsletter work for you:

- The Newsletter deadline is the 15th of every month. Articles and inserts can be submitted via email (see page 8) or dropped by the office. Emily will be happy to type submissions, if necessary.
- The newsletter is printed on a digital duplicator. This duplicator works best with line art images. Photographs are difficult to reproduce effectively. The church has an account with a large clipart service that provides our line art. Working within the deadline, the office can help you with appropriate art submissions.
- The newsletter is stuffed, folded, sealed and labeled by hand and then delivered to the post office by a group of volunteers. The non-profit bulk mail rate limits the weight per piece that can be sent.

Special Note: Report Keys

Please help the office update church records.

Should you have a set of keys to the building, please email Emily at em@bhccml.com or call 412-561-4114 during business hours.

Help Spread the Word-New Promotional Team at Bower Hill



**Promotional
Team**

Whether you've been a member of Bower Hill for years or are a new member, you know that there are always great things going on in our church. But does the rest of the community know? Because we want to expand our efforts to promote the goings on at Bower Hill, we are forming a Promotional Team. There will be several ways to get involved with the new team. The first is to participate in a meeting where we will brainstorm and discuss the many ways we could promote Bower Hill. Our first brainstorming session will be held after the 9:30 worship service on July 13th. If you have any questions contact Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519 or at treetoowon@yahoo.com.

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Highlights in July

**Sr. Bible Study, Mondays
7PM**

*** No meeting July 7th**

July 27

Work Trip Recap Service

**Brian Hayes, Youth Director
br@bhccml.com**

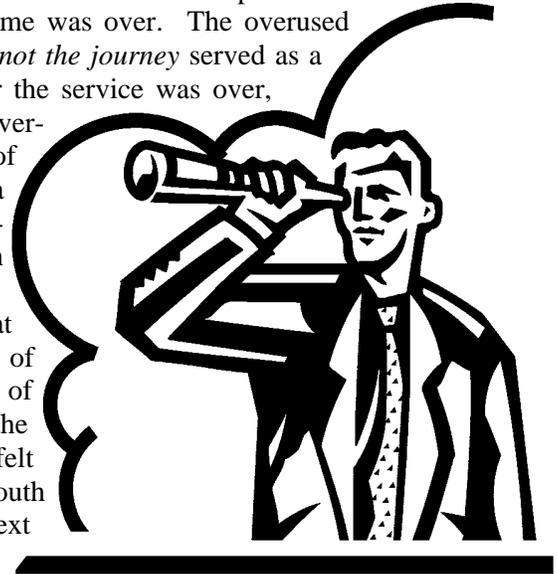
The Youth had so much fun on Youth Sunday! We want to thank the congregation for being such a supportive audience! Throughout the school year, we have engaged in many discussions involving the topic of stress. Difficulty arises when one attempts to understand how subversively we are all affected by stress. Our final answer became the theme of this year's Youth Sunday: the paradox of letting go and holding on at the same time.

As we rehearsed more and more for the service, we realized that we were enjoying the hard work. As we enacted our worship, we had a lot of fun. When it was all over, I was reminded of the Steeler's recent Super Bowl victory. It was less fun after the game was over. The overused quip of *it's about the destination, not the journey* served as a bright analogous metaphor. After the service was over, the kids and I had a profound conversation about how a large dose of stress allows for the action of a situation to be that much more en-

joyable. I believe that *fun* is the best word to describe our Youth Sunday experience.

Additionally, we all said, "Wow" when we finally understood what we had learned. We learned that the experience of being a part of Youth Sunday was our ultimate lesson. We embraced the totality of the moment. We seized the day. We seized the stress. We seized the joy. We seized the love, and so did you. So we extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation of BHCC for helping to make Youth Sunday 2008 to be a great memory. Now onward to form the next memory!

~ **Brian Hayes**



Fill The Cart – Middies and Mission



On Saturday evening, May 17th, ten middle school youth (five of our "Middies" and their friends) gathered at church for our "Fill the Cart" challenge. Three teams each were given \$50 and a list of food and household items that were assigned point values.

Then we were off to Giant Eagle, where the teams competed to see which could fill their cart with the most points. After shopping, we returned to Bower Hill and tallied the scores, and the winning team got to choose where we'd go for ice cream. Before we left we said a prayer, thanking God for allowing us to be his hands and his feet and collect this food for donation to the Wallace Food Pantry. We wound up the evening with ice cream at Dairy Queen and a truly "satisfied" feeling!

Special thanks to Glenn and Sally Child for sponsoring a cart!

BHCC SOFTBALL

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.





Please pray for The McDonough Family,
as they grieve the passing of their son, Liam ,
who was received into the loving arms of God
shortly after birth.

Please pray also for the continued strength
and growth of their daughter, Delaney.



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, Reformed Presbyterian Home, Perrysville

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

Jim Redmond Country Meadows, 3570 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY

WORSHIP INFORMATION

July 6

Rev. Pat Albright "A Visit from Thomas Jefferson"

July 13

Kate Fletcher from Hekima Place

July 20

Rev. Leonard Sponaule will be preaching
on Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 27

Youth Mission Trip Experience

USHERS

Steve Boisvert

Jack Pattison,

Bob Bridges

Bob Winnett

Truman Kohman

COMMUNION SERVERS

Anne and Gordon Mitchell

Dave and Nancy Green



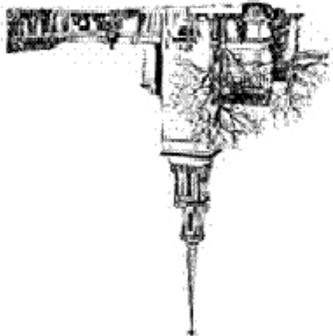
OUR CHURCH STAFF

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



70 Moffett Street
 Pittsburgh, Pa 15243
 Phone: 412-561-4114
 Fax: 412-561-2252
 E-mail: office@bhccml.com

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

WE'RE ON THE WEB
 WWW.BHCCML.COM

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Permit No. 2335
 Pittsburgh, PA