

# BOWER HILL NEWS

AUGUST 2008

## MOVED BY CONFESSION?

During the first week of July, your pastors took their boys to the Montreat Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina. While the boys set off for camp every day, your pastors spent the week attending a continuing education event called "Church Unbound." It was an amazing experience to listen to some extremely talented individuals issue a challenge to pastors and church leaders to spend some time thinking about ways that the church is bound up.

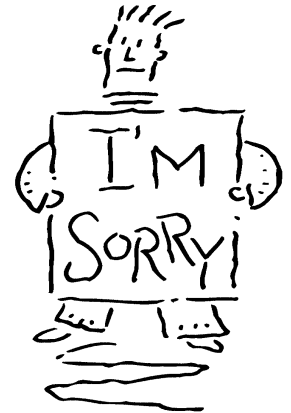
While the Bible Study, lectures, small groups and breakout sessions were informative and thought provoking; it was the worship that we found the most delightful, especially the time of confession. Now we confess, that it is perhaps unusual to think that the time of confession could be so powerful and interesting and moving. After all, confession is one of the hardest things that we do. If we're honest, most of us would admit that it is difficult to say that we are sorry and over the years we have found that pastors often get the most complaints about including the time of confession in worship. Over the years some of the complaints that we have heard include: the unison prayer of confession is not applicable to everyone and we don't like it because it makes us feel bad to list all the things we do wrong.

While we have listened over the years to all the concerns that people have shared about the time of confession, your pastors have always felt that it is important to include this time in our weekly worship. We believe it is vital as people of faith for us to remember our need for God. Confession and pardon are also a profound experience of healing; as we turn to God, unburden our hearts, and receive an assurance of pardon. Confession goes hand in hand with a reminder of God's love, grace and forgiveness. Some of the most powerful experiences of faith in our lives have been centered around the reminder of God's amazing grace and how unworthy we are to receive it. Confession is also a time of accepting peace from God and reuniting not only with God, but with one another as we share that peace with each other, which is the very reason why the passing of the peace follows our time of confession.

While we still affirm all those beliefs in confession and pardon, what was so powerful about the time of confession in Montreat was the creative way they enacted the time of confession. The experience was a little different at each service but there was always a sense of drama as a black cloth was draped over people or items as the congregation participated in the prayer by sharing thoughts about things that separated us from God. When the time of prayer was over, the cloth was slowly removed as words of assurance were spoken. In all our years in the church, we have never seen this collaboration of drama, movement, visualization and congregational participation enacted during a time of confession. It was truly something to behold and we were blessed by the experience, even as we were challenged to consider our own time of confession.

We invite you to consider the power of confession with us!

REV. LAURIE & REV. LEONARD



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**PROMOTION TEAM CALL FOR SLOGAN HELP**

PROMOTION TEAM

Over the past few months, Session has been working on a new slogan for Bower Hill. One of the first tasks of the new Promotional Team will be to contribute some ideas to this discussion. The goal of the new slogan is to in a few words explain what makes Bower Hill different from the many other churches in the area. As Leonard put it: if someone is in the parking lot at Giant Eagle and they hear or see the name Bower Hill Community Church what immediately springs to mind?

We want to know what makes Bower Hill so special to you. Why did you first join? Why are you still a member? We're not looking for you to come up with a slogan (although if you have ideas we'll take those too). We just want a couple of sentences or thoughts of what Bower Hill means to you or what you envision Bower Hill's role in the community to be. If you have any thoughts to share contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or by e-mail at [treetoowon@yahoo.com](mailto:treetoowon@yahoo.com). If you'd like to be a part of the promotional team, watch for meeting dates in upcoming bulletins or call Theresa.

**DATES OPEN FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

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.

There is also a second option that allows one 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 or for causes such as the BHCC Youth Group Work Trip. Silk flowers will be used on those dates.

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. The dates for 2008 are August 17<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> and in 2009 the date will be May 17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**BOWER HILLERS IN NEED OF COODINATOR**

At the June meeting of Bower Hillers, George Freas announced he was retiring after eight years as Chairman. On several earlier occasions, he had appealed for a volunteer replacement but received no response. The result is that there are no further meetings scheduled when the group would normally resume activities in September. If someone is willing to devote a few hours a month to seeing that the Bower Hillers continue, please give him a call. He will be happy to train a replacement and provide as much support as needed. The position is not difficult. It involves a minimum amount of planning and coordination. Here is a brief summary of the Chairman's duties and responsibilities:

- **Organize a schedule of eight luncheons per year**
- **Welcome members and guests at luncheons**
- **Acknowledge coordinator and helpers at luncheons**
- **Introduce persons providing Devotions**
- **Coordinate collection of annual dues**
- **Conduct short business meetings at luncheon including:**
  - \* Checking account status
  - \* Schedule future luncheons
  - \* Announce sick or disabled members
  - \* Old business
  - \* New business
  - \* Introduce speaker/program

Bower Hillers have been an outreach to seniors and an active force in our church since the 1980's. They have provided a source of fellowship, fun and spiritual nourishment for many in our congregations. Do we really want to lose this valuable ministry?

**June Session Highlights**

- **An offering of letters for "Bread for the World" was approved for Sunday, September 14.**
- **The Flea Market to be held in November was approved, with proceeds going 1/3 to mission, 1/3 to the 2009 Youth Work Trip and 1/3 to Buildings and Grounds.**
- **A Wedding Booklet, along with fees list, was approved.**

Phyllis Yohe  
Clerk of Session

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### KICK-OFF SUNDAY!

Mark your calendar!  
Kick-off Sunday is  
almost here!

On Sunday  
September 7th we will  
kick off the  
new program year!

An array of activities  
is being planned to  
start the new year out  
with a splash!

So don't miss out!

### Kick Off Sunday Schedule

#### 8:50 AM Kick-Off Breakfast

Come visit with old friends and meet some new ones as we join in fellowship.

#### 9:30 AM Worship and Communion

Children in preschool through grade 5 will worship until the children's message and then will proceed to their Sunday School classes.

#### 10:30 AM Fellowship Time

We'll gather for fellowship and coffee in the Friendship Room

#### 10:45 AM Education

Youth Education will begin and Children's activities will be available in the Lounge. This will also be the start of the Adult Education program. Plan to join us as we begin a three week series on Oil! We will explore our dependence and the impact on the environment. This series will be hosted by Rick Jacobs.

### PRODUCE TO PEOPLE

**Big  
Thank  
You!**

Thanks to all of you that participated in The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's "Produce to People" food distribution on June 28th. We unpacked and distributed

**10,627 pounds of food** to support **456 households** or approximately **1064 individuals**. Not bad for a few hours work on a Saturday morning! Keep checking the newsletter and bulletin for the next opportunity to participate in this event. Again, thanks for a job well done. -John Zoll

### FLEA MARKET



This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 22. Collection will begin immediately. **Please do not include clothes, books or large furniture.** All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during

office hours 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. Pricing will be done two or three times each month on Sunday after worship (or after adult education) in the loft. Price guides are provided for those who are unsure of how to price. Remember one of the advantages of helping with the flea market is that you get first dibs on items coming in. If you're interested in helping price there will be a sign up sheet available after worship on Sundays or contact Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.

### FOOD BANK NEEDS



On Sunday, **August 10**, 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 pasta, dry cereal (prefer healthy varieties like Cheerios) and peanut butter. Also appreciated are chunky or hearty varieties of various soups.**

### 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. New members are always welcome!

#### August 19

*Unaccustomed Earth* by Jhumpa Lahiri  
Hostess: Betsy Prine

#### September 16

*The Boy in Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne  
Hostess: Betty Ewing

#### October 21

*The Soloist* by Steve Lopez  
Hostess: Mary Laufer



## YOUTH WORK TRIP HIGHLIGHTS FROM BRIAN HAYES

### The BHCC Youth Work Trip took off on a week long service adventure June 29th.

We had four days of work. Each day we divided into our work groups and we were off by nine o'clock. Everyone spent two of the four days at Kid's camp. The remaining time was spent at some various houses of needy community members, a visit to a retirement home for the mentally handicapped called G.F. Horne, a local Food Bank, and La Casa Esperanza.

### A day's work could include:

#### Service at the local food bank that feeds 19,000 out of the 55,000 population.

In addition, this food bank also takes care of many migrant workers daily. Our group found this just unbelievable! So many needy people. This food bank relies on local donations.

#### Cleaning at La Casa Esperanza, a thrift-like store where the clothes are given away.

The kids organized clothing, cleaned and organized. Upon entering the space, we were clearly reminded that our society donates a lot of stuff. Where help is truly needed is in the organization of this surplus. We tried to make everything accessible. The store was closed while we worked. Customers who wandered in were quickly ushered out by the uncompromising old lady who oversaw the store. During one moment the old "bouncer" was occupied upstairs when a young Hispanic mother timidly entered. We knew we had little time until the old lady kicked her out. We tried to explain our haste through broken Spanish. When we discovered she had three kids, we gave her all the book bags and coloring books that we could cram in the box. I tried to say, "Now hurry and leave," but I just ended up quoting Speedy Gonzales. She smiled. She got the message and her watery eyes were embracing all of us for a moment before she vanished. We were lucky to have experienced that moment. It was a poignant morale boost.

### Youth Work Trip Participants

Brian Hayes, Dylan Lease, Kelsey Ramaley, Jake Zoll,  
Tim May

Jean Miewald, Stephen Patrick, Ben Hohlfelder, Carly  
Lunoe

Tim Lease, Ann Richardson, Evan Schardt, Mike Waine,  
Allison Lease

#### A "Kids Club" group that works like a year round head start program.

This is similar to what our group did last year. Kids' Camp was comprised of about fifty children between ages of five and ten. Most of them were the children of migrant workers. We would drive about ten miles to a trailer park to pick up most of them. We would usually bring back about thirty-five to forty kids. The high school students were responsible for running

the camp.

#### A portion of time was also spent working on houses of residents.

There was a lot of catching up from neglected yard work. Some of the residents were gracious and some were less than gracious. One lesson I learned was that not everyone wants help. There was only so much we could do. This is a heavy concept. Jesus never charged us to *feel good because of all the good work we do*. Nonetheless, we are called to help each other. We, as Christians, feel compelled to react to *grace*. This concepts remains as simple as breathing and yet as difficult to process as the concept of eternity. Some moments during our trip were beautiful and some were trying, but through it all, we were living out the joy of serving others.

## YOUTH DIRECTOR REFLECTS

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There were many moments to recount from our summer high school mission trip. Some were good and some were less than encouraging. As the details of our trip to the Eastern Shore of Virginia will inevitably fade, I will surely never forget meeting Katherine. She resided in the G.F. Horne retirement home. Our task for the morning was to provide a worship service for the section of the home that focused on the mentally unstable patients. Katherine was wheeled in and gently placed onto a nearby couch. She could not have weighed more than eighty pounds. She had to have been at least eighty years old. Her brown leather skin was loosely clinging to her frail bones. She curled into a sideways position on the couch and rested her head on the back. She could have been sleeping. The wrinkles and the liver spots that covered her face appeared to blend in with the stains and abrasions of the old couch.

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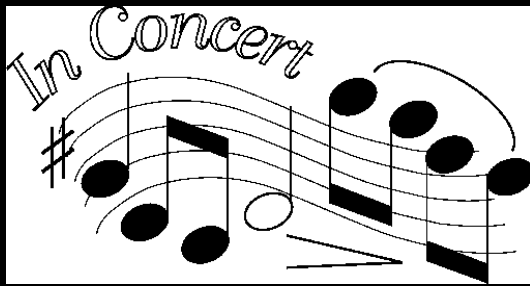
Her faith was shining.  
 She was telling us her life story.  
 The tribulations of her life  
 were navigated through her songs.

As we commenced with worship, I remember regarding Katherine as a frail person on the couch who was “half there.” She, in fact, was not interacting with anyone and her eyes were mostly closed. The third song we were about to sing was Amazing Grace. I was playing guitar and leading the songs. I uttered the introductory sentence, “Does anybody know the song Amazing Grace?” Before my sentence was complete, Katherine began singing the timeless tune. Her voice was instantly powerful. To the esoteric and to the ignorant, the performance was musically pristine. Her intonation was perfect. Her eyes were now shut tightly. Her spirit was on fire. I am not just being poetic when I say that the whole room could feel the pulse of her emotional chanting. When I observed her as she sang, an entirely different image sat before me. Instead of seeing a bag of withered skin, I saw a lifetime of experience. It was clear that she was reliving the moments of her life where she suffered. It was like watching her enact excerpts of her memory. A moment of hardship was smothered by the vocal response, and then another. Her faith was shining. She was telling us her life story.

The tribulations of her life were navigated through her songs.

After Amazing Grace was finished we sat with misty eyes and listened to a few more performances from our soul diva. I will never forget these moments. Each note was saturated with pain, suffering, love and hope. There is more to learn from Katherine than I could ever perceive. One lesson that I hold close to my heart was revealed through her countenance as she sang. I took the liberty to imagine her as a young black woman in the south in the sixties. I could see her as she encountered a difficult situation and countered it with song. Faith can be revealed through music in a beautiful fashion. Every harmony can remind us how little we understand about our reality. Each increment points toward the amazing wonder of life. Counterpoint is a tribute to our abilities to help one another, the gift of compassion. The sound of Katherine’s voice was the sound of action. She was prompted by the title and then she ran with it. She sang without hesitation. She effortlessly shared with us a message of hope and love. I now think of her often. I will always remember this amazing woman. I cannot help but recall Katherine’s voice as a prayer for the world; that we may remember the joy of music. That we may remember that God breathes, grieves, and laughs with us. God reacts through us. It is our charge to release our inhibitions so that we might allow the pulse of God to flow through us.

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



**The Fall Programming Year at BHCC includes a series of concerts presented by our Music and Worship Department. Please mark your calendars!**

**Sunday, September 21, 4 pm  
Jessica Baier, organ recital**

The Director of Music at BHCC will present an arrangement of organ music including pieces including Herbert Howells, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, and an original composition by recent Duquesne University graduate Vincent Rone.

**Sunday, October 19, 4 pm  
Handbells in Concert**

This event will feature handbell soloists Bob and Roberta Erickson. Roberta is Director of Handbells at Oakmont Presbyterian Church and the United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington. Bob rings with the JuBELLation Ringers at Oakmont Presbyterian Church.

**Sunday, November 16, 4 pm  
The Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh**

This is primarily a wind quintet, dedicated to bring wind chamber music to the greater Pittsburgh community.

[www.aeolianwinds.com](http://www.aeolianwinds.com)

**Sunday, December 14, 4 pm  
Christmas Concert**

This concert will be a joint performance with the Pleasant Hills Community Church, Jonathan Wooding, Director of Music. Our choirs will be combined to give a concert of sacred Christmas music.

It's hard to believe that we're already getting ready for a new program year! There are a lot of opportunities to participate and enjoy in the music program at Bower Hill. Please consider lending your talent and enthusiasm to one of the following groups:

#### **Bell Choir**



The Bell choir is for adults and all students from middle to high school. We will begin practice on **Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 pm** in the music room. We play once a month on Sunday during 9.30 am Worship.

#### **Chancel Choir**



The Chancel choir is for adults and all students from middle to high school. We will begin practice on **Thursday, September 4 at 7:45 pm** in the music room. Rehearsal Sunday morning is from 9-9.15 am. We sing every Sunday at the 9.30 AM service starting on September 7 and at special concerts and Worship services.

#### **King's Kids Clappers**



All kids from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the King's Kids Clappers, where we play the hand chimes. The preliminary practice will be on **Wednesday, September 3 at 4:30 pm** in the music room.

#### **Kid's Choir**



As new facet to our music programming, I would like to offer a choir experience for our smaller members. The King's Kids Choir for kids in preschool and kindergarten will begin preliminary practice **Tuesday, September 2 at 4:30 pm.**

As the children's groups form, we will decide on a more permanent schedule. For both children's groups, there will be a sign up on the music room door, please indicate which times are better for you.

May God continue to bless our ministries together.

~Jessica

## 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

## WORDS OF THANKS:

The entire Prine family wishes to express heartfelt thanks to everyone for their prayers and words of condolence, and to the deacons for food and refreshments, in the loss of our beloved son and brother, Roger Putnam Prine. Bower Hill Church is indeed someplace special! Chuck and Betsy Prine.

## WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR AUGUST

### WORSHIP INFORMATION

Sunday August 3: Guest Preacher

*\* We will be helping out a sister congregation this morning.*

Sunday August 10: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Rev. Leonard

Sunday August 17: Genesis 45:1- 15 Rev. Leonard

Sunday August 24: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Rev. Laurie

Sunday August 31: Exodus 3:1-15 Rev. Leonard

### USHERS

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

### COMMUNION SERVERS

There will be no communion servers in August as we will celebrate communion by intinction.

**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

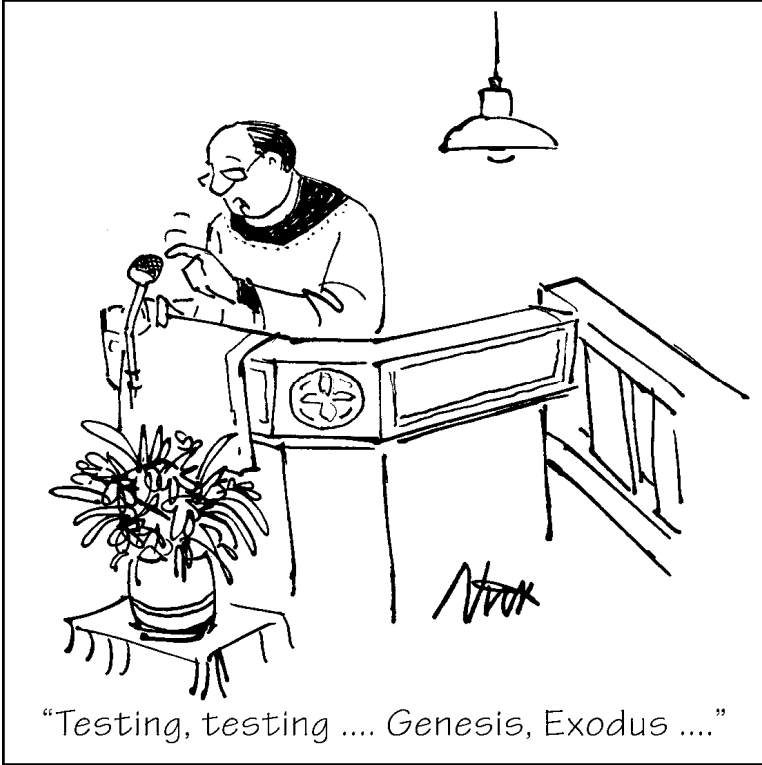
Emily Kerr, Secretary

em@bhccml.com

**THE CHURCH OFFICE**

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:15am—3:15 pm



WWW.BHCCML.COM

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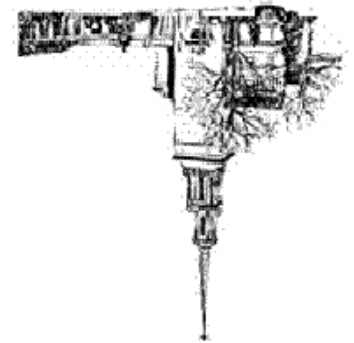
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POWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
A PLACE TO BELIEVE, BELONG & BECOME



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