

BOWER HILL NEWS

PATTERNS

OCTOBER 2008

I have been spending a great deal of time thinking about patterns, routines, things that we do over and over again, often without thinking about it. Like the route that we take to the store, which sock or shoe we put on first, how many cups of coffee we have in the morning before getting ready for work. Did you ever notice how much of our behavior is patterned? I probably pay more attention to patterns than most people because one of the things about the world of Autism is that many children on the spectrum like or need or thrive on patterned behavior. For some children it is difficult to break patterns and they creep up in the most unexpected places. I remember one experience with one of my children and an elevator. Every time we went into a particular building, the same elevator would arrive to take us to our floor. After about six weeks, the other elevator arrived, and with wide eyes, Andrew or Josh refused to get in. It took a while for me to realize that a pattern had been established.

Patterns can be helpful, like the pattern of establishing the same time and place to pray every day so that we establish a routine and commitment daily. Patterns can be useful, keeping us from spending a lot of time thinking about simple things and choices we make (check out the book, *The Paradox of Choice: Why Less is More* by Barry Schwartz, for more on this). But in the world of Autism, patterns can be hazardous, as they can be rituals that prohibit flexibility and adaptability. Some patterns are also less than helpful to us in our daily lives and to the church.

As we are in the midst of many changes and transitions at Bower Hill, many of our patterns are being challenged. The way we are used to doing things has been changing some with Leonard's departure and it will change again soon with the arrival of the Interim. In the midst of this I couldn't help thinking that now is a good time to spend some time thinking and wondering about patterns, because while we are Presbyterians, who like to do things decently and in order, we know that some of our patterns can hamper our openness to God and to one another.

So what patterns direct your actions in church? Two typical patterns are sitting in the same pew or talking to the same people each week. Well, imagine what would happen if we broke these patterns and moved our seat on Sunday and talking to different people, maybe even people we don't know before or after church? I imagine it might strengthen our community and make us more enthusiastic about coming to church to see more people that we care about. It might also strengthen our prayer life as we pray for the joys and concerns of the community.

What would happen if we broke our pattern and signed up or showed up at an activity that we had never been to before or engaged in a new mission opportunity? I imagine breaking the pattern of only doing the same things might also make us feel more connected to the church, to one another and to God. It is difficult and scary to examine our patterns and to try to change them, even a little, but it can be extremely rewarding and helpful.

As you can imagine, so many patterns have been broken in my life in the last month or so, and I am just now realizing some of the losses. It is especially hard not to see Leonard sitting beside me on Sunday morning. I have been reminded however that with change comes possibilities and when you are in a relationship with God, possibilities hold enormous potential, especially when we trust that God is with us in the midst of it all. I have been grateful for your support and for your encouragement in the midst of all the changes and I am extremely hopeful for what the future will hold for each of us. As we continue to step into the unknown future, we will be blessed if we take some time to carefully consider the patterns we are in the midst of and let us wonder what would happen if we let go of a few and opened ourselves to new possibilities.

REV. LAURIE

COMMUNITY NOTES



The members of Girl Scout Troop 1613 (now 3rd Graders) and Girl Scout Troop 1775 (now 6th Graders) greatly appreciate the hospitality of Bower Hill Community Church's outreach ministry over the years. The Church has graciously hosted these two Troops for nearly 4 and 6 years, respectively, so that they could work within the Girl Scout program.

Two of the girls in Troop 1775 were awarded the Bronze Award, the highest award for a Junior Girl Scout. These sister Troops are looking forward to their bridging on to the next level this year: Troop 1613 will be bridging from Brownies to Juniors and Troop 1775 will be bridging from Juniors to Cadettes.

The Scouts in both these Troops absolutely love their meeting space in the lounge and have been known to leave Girl Scout candy and Girl Scout cookies at the office doorstep as a token of their appreciation for the welcome that the Church has given them over the years. The girls take their work in the Girl Scout program very seriously and your support helps make their program happen. On behalf of these Girl Scouts and their families, a very big thank you to all members of BHCC for welcoming and hosting these girls.

Jessie, Lizzie, Julianne, Lucy, Emma, Alyssa, Catie, Meredith, Christina, Julianna, Rachel, Anna, Caitlin, Sarah, Sarah Ann, Mira, and Amanda.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED



Please consider being a coffee hour host. Don't want to do it yourself? Sign up with another member. Don't know how to do it? On our web site, www.bhccml.com click on Ministries, click on Worship and you will find guidelines and complete instructions on how to do it. An alternative is to have a member of the Evangelism and Membership committee guide you through the process. For those who prefer or don't have the time to bake, the first Sunday of the month can be as easy as ordering and picking up a sheet cake from a bakery. If cost is a problem, you can submit your receipts to the Evangelism and Membership committee and get reimbursed. If interested, please check out the sign-up poster in the Friendship room, pick a date and sign-up.

FOOD BANK NEEDS

On Sunday, **October 12**, 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.**

CLERK'S COMMENTS

- A transition Team was appointed to work with the Committee on Ministry of the Pittsburgh Presbytery in order to help us with future plans now that Leonard has left as full-time co-pastor.
- Session training will consist of having members attend a seminar at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on September 27th. The speaker's topic will be "How to Share Your Faith".
- Permission was granted to the Alcoholics Anonymous to hold meetings at BHCC on Wednesday evenings beginning in October.

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!

**October 21**

The Soloist by Steve Lopez

Hostess: Mary Laufer

November 18

Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance by Gyles Brandreth

Hostess: Nina Helbling

No meeting in December.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES... HOW CAN YOU HELP?

TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

Don't forget about the little orange boxes that make a big difference!! Trick or Treat for UNICEF this Halloween! **By Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF, kids learn the importance of helping others in need and are empowered to make a real difference.** And this year it's easier than ever for your children to celebrate Halloween while becoming a real world hero for UNICEF. Explore the UNICEF site at www.unicefusa.org and visit the [Download Center](#) for an Activity Calendar and other easy-to-use resources to help support your child's efforts and show them they can make a difference through this beloved Halloween campaign. And check out how big of a difference just a little donation can make!



What your donation can buy:

- 6 cents provides water for a thirsty kid;
- \$1 can immunize a child against measles for life;
- \$2 provides nutrition to three hungry kids;
- \$12 can buy 20 packets of high-protein biscuits to feed malnourished children;
- \$17 can immunize one child for life against the six leading child-killing diseases
- \$24 can provide 4 long-lasting insecticidal mosquito nets, protection from Malaria

PEACEMAKING OFFERING



Are you a peacemaker? Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers..." In this chaotic and challenging world we live in there is more need than ever for us to work with God to bring about peace. With wars raging, pervasive hunger and overwhelming disease there is much to do... where do we start? The PCUSA has made a conscious effort to pursue peace around the world and in local communities. The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. It is one of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly. Each congregation is able to keep 25 percent of the Offering it receives to use for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. The rest is used by the presbytery, synod and General Assembly to pursue peacemaking missions. The need is great! Won't you help by being a peacemaker? The offering will be collected in worship on World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2008. If you miss worship, you are welcome to donate money throughout October, just send your check to the church office with the memo Peacemaking Offering. Thanks for your generous support of this offering.

WALK FOR RACIAL HARMONY

Join members of area churches in the 4th annual Walk for Racial Harmony to be held on Saturday, October 11, at the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Hosted by the Women of Pittsburgh 2000, the walk is designed to raise awareness of the division of race and culture and the rewarding work of racial reconciliation. For information and registration go to <http://www.ccojubilee.org/walk>

WALK WITH THE BHCC TEAM

Church World Services has made a commitment to helping people in need and one of the ways they fund their good work is through the Crop Walk. The crop walk is an opportunity to raise money and to walk in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who walk because they have no choice. Money collected helps to bring more than just food, water and shelter to those in need. It also brings hope. This year the Crop Walk will take place at South Park on Sunday October 12th. You can pick up a collection form outside the sanctuary, or you can go online and register with the Bower Hill team. Not able to walk...then why not donate toward the Bower Hill team and support our church's efforts...or consider being a virtual walker if you can't make it to the event on October 12th. The walk will begin at 2:00 pm at the South Park Fairgrounds- Museum Building. Registration begins at 1:00 pm.





The Middies of BHCC have taken center stage as we slide into autumn! As the school year began, we took a trip to Village Lanes for some Friday Night Cosmic Bowling. A celebratory attitude defined the night. The previous week, six of our middle-schoolers met in Fellowship Hall to engage their annual *Back to School Mission Project*. Our students were so excited about the project. This chance allows for our young missionaries to assemble and organize school supplies which are then donated to underprivileged students. It is inspiring to hear the Middies talk about how their efforts are helping the less fortunate. Our youth are developing an identity through their selfless acts of compassion. The next time the Middies meet they are going to learn how to make Communion Bread! In the interest of continuing to embrace the prospect of serving others, we are enthused that the Mission Committee is offering such a generous opportunity to participate with the Pittsburgh Project in November. A weekend retreat to the Pittsburgh Project will occur during the weekend of November 7th – 9th. The Pittsburgh Project is on the North Side. The BHCC Youth Group is on board and grateful for the anonymous donation that will cover the cost for anyone who wants to attend.

MIDDIES
Sunday, Oct. 12th 6:30 - 8:00
Optical Illusions
I guarantee you will see things differently afterward!
Meet in the Youth Lounge.

Tuesday, Oct. 28th 6:30 – 9:30
Movie Night
Drivers needed (to and/or from) to take a trip to Destinta.

HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, Oct. 9th 1:00 - ?
Matinee

Monday, Oct. 20th 7:00 – 8:00
Bible Study
Meet in Brian's office.

Sunday, Oct. 26th 6:30 – 10:00
Fright Night
We will take the trolley to Station Square.

Mission Opportunity! November 7 – 9, 2008

The Mission Committee is pleased to announce that an anonymous member of the congregation has agreed to fund a Weekend Retreat/Mission Project the weekend of November 7 – 9 in support of the Pittsburgh Project.

The Pittsburgh Project is an urban, neighborhood-based Christian community development organization. The Weekend Retreat combines worship, fellowship, and rehabilitation of homes in Pittsburgh. The Pittsburgh Project provides meals, lodging, materials and tools. We will work in teams and drive to the work sites. Saturday evening's program includes Bart Campolo, a veteran Youth Minister.

Details and Sign-up

When: November 7 @ 5:30 PM – November 9 @ 3:30 PM

Who: Able-bodied volunteers from Middies to Retirees! Middies must be accompanied by a parent.

Where: Start at 2801 N. Charles St. Pgh

How Much: Cost of \$80 per person or \$194 per family is covered through an anonymous grant. Free!!

Name(s): _____

Number of Participants: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Please return to Steve Boisvert or Alan Hohlfelder or the church office by October 5.



MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

The program year is off to a great start with our music ministries. It is not too late to think about joining one of our ensembles—we are always happy to see new people. If you do not want to commit to an ensemble but would like to contribute in the music of the Worship service, opportunities are available for those of any musical persuasion or talent. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



King's Kids Clappers
Wednesdays at 4.30 p.m.

Handbell Choir
Thursdays at 6.30 p.m.

Chancel Choir
Thursdays at 7.45 p.m.

Thank you for being supportive of our fall concerts. I am hoping to see you again at our October concert.

Mark your calendar
for these upcoming
fall concerts!!



Sunday, October 19, 4 p.m.

We will be hosting handbell soloists, Bob and Roberta Erickson. Roberta is employed by City Music Center at Duquesne University, where she is business manager and teaches handbells. She is also Director of Handbells at Oakmont Presbyterian Church and The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington. Bob is owner of Golf Augusta Pro Shops in Oakmont and rings with The JuBELLation Ringers at OPC. Their concert, entitled "Rejoice!" will be including pieces arranged by Roberta herself, including 'For the Beauty of the Earth' and 'Let There Be Peace on Earth.' This concert will benefit The Pittsburgh Project.

Also plan to attend:

Sunday, November 16, 4 p.m.

Aeolian Winds in Concert
To support the SHIM Refugee Project

Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m.

Christmas Concert
To support the Friends of Music

OCTOBER 5

**Rev. John Welch, Vice President and Dean of Students,
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Black Liberation Theology and the History of the Black Church**

OCTOBER 12

**Stephen O' Donnell
Democratic Candidate for Congress, 18th Congressional District**

OCTOBER 19

**Congressman Tim Murphy
Republican incumbent, 18th Congressional District**

OCTOBER 26

**Infinite Family - Betsy Hohlfelder
Discussion of her recent trip to Kenya to visit her internet student**

Adult Education



Dearest Friends of Hekima Girls,

My what a whirlwind month August has been for us ! I arrived home on August 8th after missing the connecting plane in Heathrow and sitting there for 12 hours....lovely....

Two days later five of our girls and one mum were confirmed at Our Lady Queen by the new Cardinal of Nairobi, John Njue. Emmy had been confirmed at the Anglican Church just before I returned. So, though the Cardinal repeatedly said "I am a man of few words", the service still took five hours as he kept remembering other things he wanted to teach us. Thank God we had sent all the babies and toddlers to Deliverance Church where the singing and clapping kept their attention.

We then set out to celebrate our THIRD ANNIVERSARY as a family on Mary's Day, August 15th. We had invited friends, neighbors, teachers, colleagues from other homes and the Children's Dept. as well as the children's guardians and our Board Members. The day started at 10 am with a Mass in our Lady's honor and the baptism of baby John whom we called John Barak, since he is certainly a blessing.

The girls then changed into costumes and sang a welcome song, did several dances, a powerful poem, and performed two skits which were hilarious. They are really quite clever at drama which they never commit to paper but which they extemporaneously speak much like stand up comics. After I then gave the history and purpose of Hekima, we all shared a wonderful meal the mums had been planning over a week before, then executing like the best chefs in the world. The "piece de resistance" (pronounce that Frenchly please) was a giant sheet cake with a blow up rice paper picture of the American brochure: the girls in the corn. All the girls who could go home, then left with their guardians. It was one beautiful, beautiful day.

The Monday following, saw the homecoming of five little girls from a terrible home in the Kibera Slum. They had been sponsored by Tricia Mara, a young woman of great vision and wisdom beyond her 23 years, and she wanted to protect them from the abuse and neglect they suffered for the last two years. They are ages: 6, 7,8,9,13 and have a great sadness in their eyes. We hope we can love them into smiles that are deep and laughter that is full and rich. They have experienced their first hot shower and new pajamas, their own beds, bubbles to blow, jumping ropes and classroom fun in our dining room with the big sisters acting as teachers, followed by swings, and seesaw and sliding board. We pray we can love them out of their past.

The house we expected to get in August didn't materialize, but, we moved the secondary girls (5) and university girl (1) from the third floor of the young ones house: Maisha. The big girls now live in Amani House, the admin block which used to house volunteers. The girls will cook their own breakfasts in this house, clean and do their own laundry. This house still has an office for me, and the accountant and social worker who share the dining room space. So that's how we had space for the five little ones who needed to be rescued.

I cant tell you all how grateful I am, that you have made this life possible for these little angels. Our landlords who give us this beautiful property for a pittance are to be blessed most abundantly. And as I write, a blessed rain in falling on our wonderful new shamba. .. a garden which hadn't seen rain for the last two months. Thank God for our glorious borehole too, which allows us to water it and make it grow. We actually (well, the mums and uncles) saved \$1500 in food, supplies, repairs etc. mainly from that garden. Soon we hope to be even more self sufficient.

So know that **you are a blessing**, and know that God will most certainly never ever be outdone in generosity. We continue to hold you in our hearts and pray for you each and all every single day.

With much love and great thankfulness,

Kate and the Scholars of Hekima (wisdom seekers, all of us)

The Statistics are overwhelming:

just 65% of Kenyan girls enroll in elementary school.

30% enroll in high school. A young Kenyan girl orphaned by HIV/AIDS has little hope for education.

Without education, her future is likely to be out on the streets or in the slums.

But 'Hekima Place' (meaning wisdom) is a Kenyan boarding school founded in 2005 that is a beacon of hope to these children.

Girls orphaned by HIV/AIDS find a stable home environment at Hekima Place and opportunities to attend elementary and secondary grades.

They are given the opportunity to mature and learn in a place of safety, comfort and love.

Bower Hill Community Church supports Hekima Place through our Mission Committee and the generosity of our members.

For more information on Hekima Place, visit:

[Www.hekimaplace.org](http://www.hekimaplace.org)

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
- 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 Presb. Home, 2344 Perrysville Ave., #316 D, Pittsburgh, PA 15214
- 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
- Jim Redmond, Country Meadows, 3570 Washington Pike, Apt. 52, Bridgeville, PA 15017

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER

USHERS

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Communion in October will be served by intinction.

GREETERS

- Oct. 5** Bill Andrews Nancy Andrews Nancy Criswell
- Oct. 12** Jim Burke Bev Burke Judy Delestine
- Oct. 19** Glenn Child Sally Child Theresa Child
- Oct. 26** George Freas Eleanora Freas Chan Ketchum

LECTORS

- Oct. 5** - Jake Zoll
- Oct. 12** - Betty Ewing
- Oct. 19** - Jonah Zoll
- Oct. 26** - Sally Child

WORSHIP INFORMATION

SUNDAY OCTOBER 5 –EXODUS 20
 World Communion Sunday
 Communion will be celebrated by Intinction
 The Peacemaking Offering will be collected
 Rev. John Welch, Vice President of Student Services
 and Dean of Students at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary,
 will be preaching

SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 –PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9
 Praiseworthy Living
 Rev. Laurie will be preaching

SUNDAY OCTOBER 19- A MESSAGE ON STEWARDSHIP
 Rev. Dr. Doug Portz will be preaching

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26- MATTHEW 22:34-46
 The Compassionate Life
 Rev. Laurie will be preaching



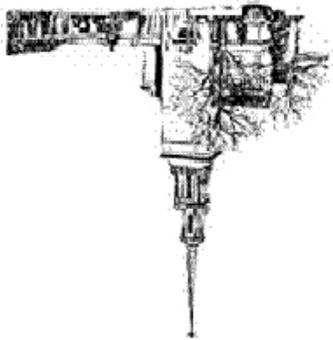
OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, Pastor
 la@bhccml.com
 Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries
 je@bhccml.com
 Brian Hayes, Director of Youth Ministries
 br@bhccml.com
 Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
 di@bhccml.com
 Emily Kerr, Secretary
 em@bhccml.com
 Michael Bergen, Custodian

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114
 Monday - Friday 9:00am—2:30 pm

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



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

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