

BOWER HILL NEWS

NOVEMBER 2008

MARKING TIME

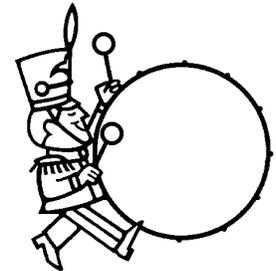
As I was thinking about what I wanted to write for the newsletter this month, I was taken back, way, way back, to my days in the Bernard's High School marching band. I remember during my first summer of Band camp, the very first lesson we learned was about marking time. Marking time, is essential marching in place. While it may seem pointless, marking time plays an important role in marching. When you are marking time, you are preparing for the next move, the next direction that you are supposed to go. We spent hours practicing marking time in band practice, as it is essential to every change each marching band member makes. As a part of the whole band, each member needs to know when it is time to move and when it is time to mark time or march in place.

Looking back on the past two months, marking time seems to be an appropriate way of describing what we at Bower Hill have been experiencing. We have been continuing to mark time with only a part time pastor and a part time staff. The extreme generosity of the staff and their willingness to step up and take on extra areas of responsibility has allowed the church to keep doing the important things that needed to be done. The critical work of the church has continued through staff, session and volunteer efforts, but I am sure you are aware that there are many things that have been put on hold during this waiting period. We have most definitely been marking time, preparing for what is next.

It is with a great sense of joy and relief that I, and I would imagine, the office staff and session prepare for the arrival of the Rev. Cal Wilson as our Interim on October 29th. With his arrival, we will begin a new chapter at Bower Hill. Even though our time of transitioning will continue during his Interim ministry here, this chapter can be more than one of marking time. It will be up to each of us whether we choose to march in place or whether we choose to engage in keeping the mission and ministry at Bower Hill moving forward.

In just a few days, we will enter into stewardship season, and the leadership of the church will set aside time to envision the immediate future at Bower Hill. Much of that future will be determined by the pledges that will be made during the stewardship campaign. It will take the efforts of the whole congregation, offering their gifts of time talent and treasure to move this church from a state of marking time to moving toward the new future. Much of that future had begun to take shape, with the work of the Mission Action Teams. We have been marking time, but it is time to embrace what is next for Bower Hill. Now is not the time to cut back or hold back in sharing our gifts. Now is the time to thank God for how God has led us in the past and to act with confidence, trusting that God will lead us into the future. May each of us give prayerful thought to how we can help move the church from a time of marking time to what is next.

REV. LAURIE



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COMMUNITY NOTES: TRANSITION TEAM REPORT A&P NOTE BOOKWORMS VOTER TRANSPORTAION DECK THE HALLS SANCTUARY FLOWERS LOOKING AHEAD	2
MISSION OPPORTUNITIES: ANGLE TREES FOOD BANK COAT DRIVE FLEA MARKET	3
MUSIC NOTES CONCERT SERIES	4
ADULT EDUCATION HOHLFELDER NOTE	5
MCDONOUGH NOTE	6
CARE LIST NOVEMBERVOLUNTEERS WORSHIP PLANS	7
HUMOR	8

COMMUNITY NOTES

TRANSITION TEAM REPORT



The team met with three potential interim pastor candidates, selected our first choice, created a contract, got acceptance from the candidate on the contract and approval from session and the Pittsburgh Presbytery. At the worship service on Sept 19th, our selection of Cal Wilson was announced. For the process of selecting an interim pastor, only session approval is needed, whereas with the selection of a regular pastor, both session and congregational approval is needed.

A NOTE FROM A & P COMMITTEE



Just a Reminder...

As you well know, Bower Hill is currently going through a time of turmoil and transition. This affects not only the congregation members, but also the staff. At this time, our custodian, Mike Bergen, is off work for a month on medical leave, thus resulting in extra work for other BHCC employees. In addition, with Reverend Laurie working half-time and until an interim pastor is settled, we are significantly short-handed. The work is the same, but, for the moment, there are fewer people to do all of it. I would ask you to please be considerate of our staff, both pastoral and non-pastoral, during this transition period. Think twice before making extra demands on them and, when you can, please volunteer to help out.

Pat Jacobs

Chair of the Administration & Personnel Committee

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 faces are always welcome!



November 18

Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance
by Gyles Brandreth

Hostess: Carolyn Phillippe

No meeting in Dec.

TRANSPORTATION FOR VOTERS AVAILABLE



The Deacons of BHCC are making themselves available to voters without a vehicle this November. Those needing assistance to traveling to the polls on Election Day can contact Mary Good at (412) 341-0291.

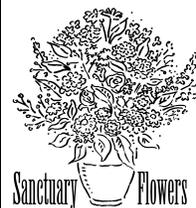
Please make your arrangements prior to Election Day in order to ensure that a volunteer is available in your area.

DECK THE HALLS



Please stay and help decorate BHCC for the upcoming Holiday Season immediately after worship on November 30th. Lunch and/or light refreshments will be served. Look to the Sunday bulletin as the date nears for further information on this traditional BHCC event .

SANCTUARY FLOWERS-OPEN DATE



Donating flowers (or making a donation in lieu of flowers) for the weekly Sunday service is a way for church members to remember loved ones. Each donor donates once a year, typically around the same date. There is one date still available for 2008 on November 16th. For more information or details about dates available in 2009, call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR DECEMBER

Once again this year, BHCC will host a winter fundraiser for the Youth Work Trip. Very shortly, you will have the opportunity to purchase your annual Holiday Wreaths via the BHCC youth. Approach a youth member and pre-order today!



Also on the horizon are the traditional Christmas poinsettias. Order Forms will be included in the December issue of the BHCC newsletter. Make your plans now to remember or honor loved ones with a poinsettia in our Christmas service.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES... HOW CAN YOU HELP?

ANGEL TREES UPCOMING



We know it's not Thanksgiving yet, but...it's time to start thinking (and talking) about our traditional Christmas Angel Trees. Your Mission committee has again decided to have three trees this year; one each for Lydia's Place, Hekima Place and our troops in Iraq & Afghanistan. There will be one twist this year-the tree for the troops will have red, white & blue stars that allow you to either purchase an item and/or write a letter. Watch for more information about the trees in the coming weeks.

FOOD BANK NEEDS

On Sunday, November 9 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.



YOU CAN SPREAD THE WARMTH THIS WINTER!



Coat Drive

East End Cooperative Ministry's Annual Coat and Blanket Drive is underway and we are asking you to be a part of it. You can donate new or gently used clean fall jackets and winter coats at BHCC and we will get them to those in need through East End Cooperative Ministry. Extra-large men's coats are particularly needed and appreciated. This year warm, clean blankets have been added to the fall drive. Bring your coat, jacket, and blanket donations to BHCC's narthex, place them in the box located there and Mission will do the delivery. The collection will be from October 26 through November 23. Many thanks for being an active part of the solution!

BHCC FLEA MARKET NEEDS YOUR HELP

LAST CALL FOR FLEA MARKET ITEMS

Please bring donations for the flea market to the church by Sunday November 16th. PLEASE do not include clothes, books or large furniture. Clean, functional items can be dropped off during office hours or after worship. If you are able please take all items directly upstairs to the loft, otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED

There will be lots of opportunities to help out with the set up of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale. Here's what's happening:

Thursday November 20th 9:00am-3:00pm-Unpacking the Boxes

Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a work out.

We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all.

Snacks will be provided, but if you're planning on staying all day bring a lunch.

Friday November 21st 9:00am-???

Last year we got most of the unpacking done on Thursday, so Friday will probably be an early day.

Saturday November 22nd 8:00am-3:00pm-Sale Day

The Flea Market opens at 8:30am and we usually have some shoppers arriving early.

We'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

DON'T FORGET FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
22ND 8:30AM-3:00PM.**

SNACK BAR

2:00 PM

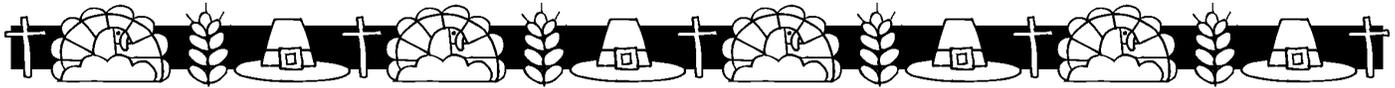
**HALF PRICE SALE IN THE
BOWER HILL BOUTIQUE
AND ON LARGE ITEMS
PLUS TRADITION BAG SALE**

Questions?

Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

**“IN THE LORD I’LL BE EVER THANKFUL; IN THE LORD I WILL REJOICE!
LOOK TO GOD—DO NOT BE AFRAID.
LIFT UP YOUR VOICES! THE LORD IS NEAR.”**



In my family on Thanksgiving Day, we have a tradition that, just before we bless our bountiful meal, we go around the table and each say what we are most thankful to God for. I have fond memories of this tradition, and always try to remember to rejoice in the many blessings God has granted me. I have been ever thankful to the Lord for the people at Bower Hill and most especially for my ensembles: the Chancel Choir, the Handbell Choir, and the King’s Kids Clappers. You are all so close to my heart, and I want to thank you all for the time and energy spent in Worship, in rehearsal, and in concert.

Christmas is quickly approaching, and we would love some extra voices in our Chancel Choir for the Christmas Eve service and in our upcoming concerts. If you have a heart to sing, please consider joining us for the Advent and Christmas season. On **Sunday, November 2 at 12 p.m.**, the Chancel Choir will be having lunch in the music room followed by a rehearsal focused on upcoming Christmas music. Please come and join us if you are interested.

King’s Kid’s Clappers Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
Handbell Choir Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Chancel Choir Thursdays at 7:45 p.m.

IN CONCERT IN NOVEMBER AT BHCC



The Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh are delighted to perform at the Bower Hill Community Church at 4pm on Sunday, November 16th. The group is primarily a wind quintet (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and horn) and is dedicated to bringing high-quality wind chamber music to the greater Pittsburgh community. The concert will feature the second performance of composer Greg Bartholomew's *Second Suite from Razumov* for wind quintet. This brand-new piece features themes from Greg's opera, *Razumov*, and showcases the lyric qualities of each instrument in the ensemble.

The rest of the concert will include wind quintet works by Georges Bizet, Endre Szervánszky, and Júlio Medaglia. Bizet's *Jeux d'Enfants* is full of recognizable tunes. Endre Szervánszky's *Quintet No. 1* is a masterpiece influenced by Hungarian folksongs. The Medaglia work is a real show-stopper full of music with a South American flavor - a Tango, a Waltz, and the finale entitled "*Crazy Baby-Clarinet*". A post-concert reception will follow the performance.

Be sure to tune in to WQED-fm on Friday, November 7th as Jim Cunningham will interview Greg about the piece and you'll be able to hear some of Greg's music on the air! For more information, visit www.aeolianwinds.com.

For those who would like to preview Greg's new work, or who are unable to attend the performance at Bower Hill on November 16th, the Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh will give its premiere on November 9th at the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh in Oakland. Greg will give a pre-concert talk starting at 2pm. The performance on November 9th is funded in part through Meet The Composer's MetLife Creative Connections program.

Finally, remember to join us in December for the final concert in our series:

Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m. at BHCC



To support the Friends of Music



November 2

"Fair Trade: Using Our Purchasing Power for Justice and Hope".

Debbie and Steve Boisvert will walk us through the principles of Fair Trade by means of personal narration, Biblical passages and questions for reflection.

November 9

"A Generation Under Stress - Today's Teens".

Counselor Chris Lane from Outreach Teen and Family Services will discuss pressures and problems of suburban youth. The Mt. Lebanon based agency provides guidance for teens and their families.

November 16

"News from the 218th General Assembly".

Kears Pollock, Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery, will discuss how the theme of the General Assembly, "Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with your God", is to be put into action.

November 23

"Fair Trade": continuation of the November 2 program.

November 30

No class because of the holiday weekend

We wanted to send along a heartfelt thanks

to our wonderful Bower Hill family for your expressions of love and

support upon the sudden passing of our Mom/Grandma.

Your kind words, cards, presence at the Memorial Service

and Feed My Sheep breakfast basket

all helped to uplift us during our sadness.

We are grateful for your blessings.

Betsy, Alan, Erin and Ben Hohlfelder





To our friends, the BHCC congregation:

As you know, we have faced many recent challenges with Delaney being born at 25 weeks and with Liam passing away. We never imagined our lives taking this path and struggled with finding ways to get through these troubled times. Your prayers, care, support, cards, meals, and e-mails have helped us through these days. We are so blessed to have people like you in our lives and wish that we can thank each of you personally. We know (and have been told by both doctors and nurses) that Delaney's progress is truly a miracle and an answer to the prayers that you have generously shared. Even though we may not have had the pleasure of meeting you, please know that your kindness has touched our hearts and will never be forgotten.



We look forward to the day that Delaney is strong enough to bring to church to meet her spiritual family who has whole-heartedly cared for her since her birth. We can never express how much the wonderful people of BHCC have helped us and want to thank you again.

All our love,
The McDonoughs



BHCC 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
- 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, Apt. 52, Bridgeville, PA 15017
- Barbara Prunchak, Country Meadows Skilled Nursing, 3590 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
- Betty Chidlow, 138 Orchard Spring Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

USHERS

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

COMMUNION SERVERS

Dave & Nancy Green, Jim & Joan McAnulty, George & Joann Vosburgh, John & Karen Zoll, Choir: Anne & Gordon Mitchell

GREETERS

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 2 | D. J. Geis | Sherri Geis | Beth Gardner |
| Nov. 9 | Dennis Geis | Nancy Geis | Cynthia Gissin |
| Nov. 16 | David Green | Nancy Green | Mary Good |
| Nov. 23 | Tom Hayes | Debby Hayes | Jean Grabow |
| Nov. 30 | Dave Hicks | Susan Hicks | Lucille Heckman |

LECTORS

- Nov. 2** George Freas
- Nov. 9** Mary Good
- Nov. 16** Alan Hohlfelder
- Nov. 23** Abby Waine
- Nov. 30** Stephen Patrick

WORSHIP INFORMATION

Nov. 2 All Saint's Communion Sunday
 Mathew 23:1-12; John 14:1-7, 27
Our Own Room Rev. Cal Wilson

Nov. 9
 Matthew 25:1-13; Romans 12:1-13
Our Fiery Faith Rev. Cal Wilson

Nov. 16 Stewardship Sunday
 Matthew 25:14-30 Rev. Laurie Sponaugle

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving/Christ the King Sunday
 Matthew 23:31-46; Philippians 4:10-13
Our Best Word Rev. Cal Wilson

Nov. 30 1st Sunday of Advent
 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Mark 13:34-37
Our Wondrous Waiting Rev. Cal Wilson

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Cal Wilson, Interim Pastor
ca@bhccml.com

Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, Pastor
la@bhccml.com

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries
je@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Emily Kerr, Secretary
em@bhccml.com

Michael Bergen, Custodian

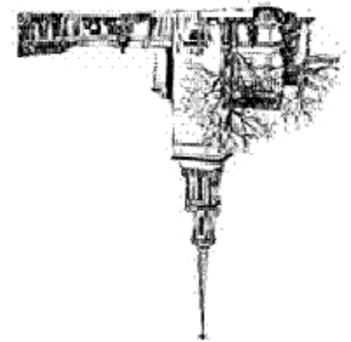
THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m.— 2:45 p.m.



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



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BOVER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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