

BOWER HILL NEWS



JANUARY 2009

SNOWFLAKES



As I sit watching the peaceful snow fall out side my window, I wonder at the difference perspective makes. Inside cosy and warm, the snow is a delightful reminder of beauty and wonder, an invitation to light a fire in the fireplace and join in an afternoon of family gaming. I know if I were out, as I was just yesterday in the midst of snow and ice, my thoughts would be worry-filled of danger and traffic and palatable anxiety of another crash into a telephone pole. What a difference perspective makes. For my children snow is a God-gift calling them to bundle up and beckoning them to rebuild frosty and rush downhill on sleds. For me, it is an invitation to bundle up with a cup of tea and a good book. And for others whose names I do not know, snow is the cold enemy that they face living without shelter or warmth. It depends on perspective.

 The changing of the calendar page is another invitation to wonder about perspective. We look backward and forward in memory and reflection. We wonder at where we have been and where we

will go. Will we be daring enough to set goals and dream dreams for what is to come? Or will we be locked into what once was, lamenting the past that is no more? I believe that the herald of a new year is a time for more than just resolutions.



Perhaps I am in a more reflective place than usual because of all the changes of this past year, but I stumbled across a poem I wrote a few years ago about snowflakes and it made me wonder what would happen if we spent some time as the year changes into newness, turning our eyes and thoughts to God and wondering about the unique role we can play in this church community and in the world. How can we partner with God creatively and enthusiastically? How can we overlap what we are gifted to do, what we love to do and put those two things to use in a place that the world has a need and where God wants us to go? What if we challenged ourselves to change our perspective to open our eyes to new experiences? What if we invested ourselves more in the needs of the world? How would our perspective change. Something to ponder and reflect upon.



Snowflakes

Gentle wishes
falling to the earth;
calling us to look up,
to notice
how each lacy pattern
special and unique,
crafted by
the hand of God
is an icy kiss
that lands on your cheek
reminding you of God's love
for the special, unique
child of God,
you are.



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Happy New Year...Rev. Laurie

COMMUNITY NOTES

EPIPHANY FEAST



Do you remember our Epiphany celebration last year?

We met in Fellowship Hall, joined together in family worship, broke bread together (lots of bread!) and enjoyed breakfast with one another, distributed the King's Cake, chose the kings for our procession, worshiped some more and celebrated communion. It was an amazing community celebration! Many enjoyed it so much, that we would like to hold a second annual Epiphany Feast on Sunday, January 4th, at 9:30 a.m.

There is one little exception...this year for the potluck, we are asking you to bring no breakfast breads! All ages are invited to bring a breakfast offering of juice, fruit, cereal, milk, yogurt, eggs or breakfast meat (meat/eggs will need to be in containers that plug in and stay hot as we will begin breakfast around 10:00 a.m.). We will gather together around tables in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m., when worship will begin. Sunday School has been canceled for the day as we expect worship and fellowship time to end around 10:45 or 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please ask Rev. Laurie.



FOOD BANK NEEDS



On Sunday, **January 11**, 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.

BOOKWORMS

Bookworms meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the home of a member, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title.

New faces are always welcome!



January

World Without End by Kenneth Follett

Hostess: Nina Helbling

February

Plain Truth by Jodi Picoult

Hostess: To Be Determined

March

Them by Nathan McCall

Hostess: To Be Determined

FLEA MARKET UPDATE



Thank you to all the people who made this year's flea market a success-the members who donated items and all the volunteers who worked so hard pricing, setting up and helping out the day of the sale. Thanks to the generosity of the members of Bower Hill the Flea Market made a little over \$2000.

The snack bar manned by the Middies was also a success making a little less than \$200. It started slowly in the morning, but in the afternoon workers and customers alike enjoyed the café-like setting in the hallway in front of the kitchen while enjoying soup and salad provided by the Olive Garden and other assorted treats.

The proceeds from this year's Flea Market will be split into thirds-1/3 to the youth, 1/3 to building and grounds, and 1/3 to mission.

Despite the success of the sale, there were still many items left. We received a call from the Red Cross the Monday after the sale inquiring if there was anything left that we could donate to a family they had just placed in a new unfurnished apartment after a fire in their home. They came by and took a bunch of kitchen items for the displaced family. SHIM also stopped by and took most of the furniture as well as some kitchen stuff. The rest was delivered to Goodwill.

As in years past, Flea Market 2008 was a winner. I'm looking forward to Flea Market 2009.

~Theresa Child



COMMUNITY NOTES

GREETERS AT BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Greeters are very important for members and visitors at Bower Hill Community Church. For those of you who will be greeting in the coming months, your name tags are in the alphabetized envelopes on the counter in the church office. You will note that just one greeter will be at either the Portico, the Narthex or the Handicapped entrances. Please sign in on the sheet near the nametags and indicate with an "X" where you will be greeting. Greeters are not assigned to locations, but will choose their sites in the order they arrive at the church office. If you are not available on the date that has been assigned to you, kindly call Jim or Joan McAnulty at 412-833-8450. If you have not been assigned to be a greeter and wish to do so, call the McAnultys. We are always seeking greeters, as this is a vital ministry at Bower Hill Community Church.



WINTER SNOW PLAN

We are planning some changes this winter season for safety reasons. Bower Hill Church has a lot of areas that must be cleared of ice and snow in order to make them safe for members of the congregation. This is sometimes difficult to do if a storm hits Saturday evening or Sunday morning. The Buildings and Grounds Committee has developed a storm plan. If we experience heavy snow or ice we will close the parking lot next to the Hospice Center. All doors at that end of the building, including the main entrance will be closed. The lower parking lot and the handicapped parking area by the kitchen will be cleared and available. Access to the church will be limited to the handicapped entrance by the kitchen and the entrance under the portico by the church office. Bad weather of this nature is infrequent so we may never have to implement this plan; but if we do, we hope everyone will understand and no one will be inconvenienced.



PRICE INCREASE FOR SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Donati's, the florist that provides our sanctuary flowers for Sunday worship, has added a \$7.50 delivery charge to the \$30 cost for flowers. To keep prices low for everyone we will begin asking all flower donors, both those who donate live flowers and those who make a donation in lieu of flowers, to pay \$35 beginning in January 2009.



If you choose live flowers, the entire \$35 will continue to go directly to the cost of the flowers.



If you choose to make a donation in lieu of flowers, the minimum donation will be \$35. Not only will the first \$5 help defray the new delivery charge for live flowers, but we will also be starting a silk flower maintenance fund for the upkeep of the silk flowers as well as future arrangements. The additional \$30 (or any amount above \$30 you choose to donate) will go to the charity of your choice.

There are several open dates for 2009:

MAY 17

JULY 19

AUG. 9

NOV. 8

NOV. 22

DEC. 13

We also have several donors who don't mind switching dates, so don't hesitate to ask if you have another date in mind. If you'd like to donate flowers or have any questions, call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.

SOUND TECHNICIANS NEEDED

If you are old enough to drive, you are old enough to run our Sound Board. We are looking for a few more folks who are willing to be trained to run the Sound Board on Sundays and special services. We will have a training session to orient you to all the dials and capabilities of the system and what to do when things go wrong. If you are interested, call Jean Miewald.





I would like to thank all of the people who participated in special music during Advent and Christmas: Lynne Wohleber, Rick Jacobs, Jean Miewald, Aaron Jones, Ben Hohlfelder, and Rev. Cal Wilson. Thank you for your time and energy to provide the extra music during Worship!! I would also like to congratulate the Chancel Choir for two excellent performances of our Christmas concert. Thank you for your extra hard work.

Thank you to all who supported and attended our Fall Concert Series. All four concerts were successful in raising money for the Neighborhood Academy, the Pittsburgh Project, SHIM, and Friends of Music. There will be more concerts this spring, so look for updates in the upcoming newsletters!

~ Jessica Baier
Director of Music



01-05-09 Youth Committee Meeting (Youth Director's Office)

01-10-09 Seniors Cosmic Bowling, 6:00 p.m.

01-10-09 Middies Ice Skating, 6:30 p.m., meet in youth lounge

01-24-08 Middies Activity, 6:30 p.m., meet in youth lounge

January 4 — No class because of the Epiphany Feast

January 11 — "The Economy in Crisis"

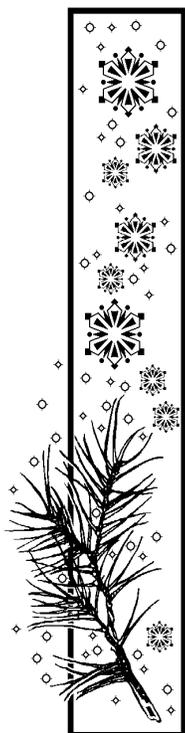
Sandra D. Williamson, Associate Professor, retired, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, will discuss the current fiscal crisis. She will focus on the origins of the crisis, who's to blame and where do we go from here.

January 18 — "Post-Crisis, Addressing the 'Old' Problems"

Sandra Williamson will again be with us to discuss the post-recession fiscal situation, with particular focus on the budgetary consequences for Social Security and Medicare of the retirement of the baby boomers. She will also touch on the debt situation of the federal government and the implications for the younger generation.

January 25 — "Seniors and Caregivers: What Do They Need to Know?"

Marjorie Wilson, Director of Seniors Information and Referral Service (SIRS), will explain this program and how it can be of benefit to both seniors and caregivers. Information covers a wide range of topics related to care, finances, psychosocial and legal needs of seniors.



FROM THE PRESBYTERY

The following letter was received from the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Session encourages members to participate. We are looking at making the webinar available for group viewing at Bower Hill. Details of a group viewing will be in the February newsletter.

Our Freedom of Religion at Risk: A Presbyterian Crisis
Your Invitation to a Vital Webinar Convocation on Thursday, February 19, 2009

Is evolving civil law eroding constitutional protection of religious freedom under the First Amendment? Is our historically rooted Presbyterian system of church governance at risk when courts interfere with Presbyteries exercising their ecclesiastical obligations under our *Book of Order*!

You are invited to explore these and related issues at a live and interactive on-line convocation, ***Our Freedom of Religion at Risk: A Presbyterian Crisis***, organized by Pittsburgh Presbytery on Thursday, February 19, 2009 from 2:00-5:30 PM, EST at Beulah United Presbyterian Church, 2500 McCrady Road, Churchill (15235).

Presentation topics followed by on-line group discussions are:

- *The Westminster Assembly* by Dr. Joseph Small
- *Covenant and Freedom of Conscience* by Dr. Beau Weston and Dr. Euan Cameron
- *Religious Liberty: A Legal History* by attorneys Mark Tammen, Esq. and The Rev. Jeff Tindall

Attendance details including registration information, bulletin insert and speaker bios are available on the event website at www.presbyterianconvocation.org.

Your participation in this convocation is important because the unity and independence of the church are at risk from within and without. Ministers, sessions, trustees and congregations encouraging division within the church encourage subordination of the church to the state when they file civil lawsuits against presbyteries. Court orders sought to prevent presbyteries from dealing with division, disorder, disobedience, dismissal and determination of the true church threaten the beliefs and religious practices of our denomination.

Evolving civil law in many jurisdictions appears intent on treating all denominations without episcopal hierarchies as congregational in their governance. This trend ignores the Biblical and historical nature of Presbyterian ecclesiastical practices. It weakens the constitutional barrier against government interference in religion.

Pittsburgh Presbytery recognizes that for too long, Presbyterians have acquiesced to the appealing concept of "me" centered religion. We have not emphasized that Christ's church is not the building where one worships or the congregation where one belongs. Rather, we are one church, universal, in covenant through Christ. The failure to encourage God-centered religious practice has left a void filled by notions that religious organization is no different from any non-religious, non-profit group fully subject to invasion by the state into its internal affairs.

Pittsburgh Presbytery welcomes your attendance at the convocation in person or by group viewing and discussion at your church or at another viewing location.





Dear Friends and family,
I hope and pray that this letter finds you all well. A lot has happened to me in recent months. In early October, I had a fall and fractured my pelvis. I was in re-hab for a month after a stay in the hospital. My son, Robert and his wife then took me to New York to now live in a beautiful apartment complex only 5 minutes from their home. I still have my home in Pittsburgh but probably will sell it next year. Just one fall and it changed my life. I like it here at Crestwood Commons and have a spacious apartment which my son and daughter-in-law, Judy, furnished to the smallest detail. I would love to hear from all of you as to how things are in your life. With love and warm wishes for the holidays and New Year,

Barbara Prunchak
c/o Crestwood Commons
100 Crestwood Court #223
Wheatfield, NY 14304
Phone: 716-731-8049*



**Barbara asks that calls be made between 10 and 11 a.m. or in the late evening. Please allow the phone to ring up to ten times, hang up, wait 2-3 minutes and then call back as it is difficult for her to move quickly to the phone.*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

In order to ensure a proper maintaining of the membership rolls, the Evangelism and Membership committee has written up and obtained session approval of the following policy. If you have any questions, please contact Jim and Joan McAnulty. This policy and the member update form mentioned in the policy are available on the web site. They are in the Members section under menu item Internal Procedures.

Policy for Changes to BHCC Membership Database:

The database for all members of Bower Hill Community Church includes the members' names, addresses, telephone numbers and marital status. The database is maintained in the Church office by the Church secretary.

The database may only be changed by the following procedures:

All membership status including active, inactive, transfer and death are made by the approval of Session following the procedures incorporated in the Book of Order. All changes to members' personal information are to be enacted only after contact with the Church has been established by the members in question and the changes are submitted in writing to the Church by using the appropriate Church generated form.

Please request a Member Update Form from the office to make changes.



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, c/o Crestwood Commons, 100 Crestwood Court #223, Wheatfield, NY 14304
Lee McCauley, 2076 Borland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Paul Frock, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Apt. #1212, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Truman Kohman, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Apt. #1430, Pittsburgh, PA 15243



BHCC CARE LIST

WORSHIP PLANS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JANUARY



Sunday, January 4

Sunday before Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12

The Epiphany Event

Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

Sunday, January 11

Baptism of the Lord

Mark 1:4-11

THE RIDDLE OF IDENTITY: My Beloved Son

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, January 18

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Luke 19:1-10

THE RIDDLE OF IDENTITY: The Sleeping Image

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, January 25

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 16:13-20

THE RIDDLE OF IDENTITY: On This Rock

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching



USHERS

Jim Corbett	Earl Kennedy
Lucille Heckman	Bill Ramsey
Woody Hughes	

COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill Cadwell	Carolyn Phillippe	Choir:
Pete Fenton	Julia Snead	Lynn Wohleber
Nina Helbling	Donna Williams	Joan Zakor
Kurt Kerner	Bob Winnett	

GREETERS

Jan. 4	Grahm Knox	Carol Knox	Keith Mason
Jan. 11	Chuck Laufer	Mary Laufer	Lee McCauley
Jan. 18	Tim Lease	Darenda Lease	LuAnn McNickle
Jan. 25	Judy Lunoe	Carly Lunoe	Lisa Shwallon

LECTORS

Jan. 4	Epiphany Service
Jan. 11	Kirsten Bruder
Jan. 18	Bill Cadwell
Jan. 25	Susan Hicks



OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Calvin C. 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

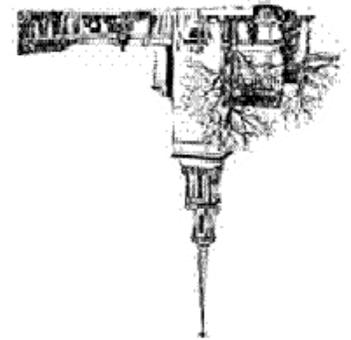
THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m.— 2:45 p.m.



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



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BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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