

# BOWER HILL NEWS



## The Crucial Interval

Dear Friends,

If memory serves me correctly, it was Carl Jung who intimated that in conversation with others it is essential to listen not only to what another person is saying but also to what he or she is not saying, that is, to the silences or the critical intervals between words and phrases. It occurs to me that the intervals—such as thirds or fifths—between musical notes actually determine in part the character of the subsequent notes. Canadian and British theatre use the appellation *interval* for what we term *intermission*; and it is in the theatrical interval where extensive evaluative discussion transpires among members of the audience regarding the first act of the drama.

One of the crucial intervals in the church occurs between the departure of one installed pastor and the arrival of another installed pastor. As you know so well, our term for this is the *interim*. It's just as critical as the intervals between words and phrases, or between successive musical notes, or between acts of a play, for this is the time for us to listen to the silences as well as the words, for us to understand the character of the rhythm and theme-line of the congregation, and for us to engage in an extensive discussion of the progression of our own unique drama as a church.

To speak unequivocally, in this particular *interval* it is essential for: 1) the congregation to achieve Appropriate Goals for the Interim Period and 2) the congregation to engage in Five Developmental Tasks, that is, five tasks that are imperative to accomplish at this stage in our ecclesiastical development.

### Appropriate Goals for the Interim Period

- To maintain the vitality of the church
- To resolve feelings of grief
- To reinforce the ministry of the laity
- To clarify the mission of the church
- To deal with special needs of the church
- To emphasize fellowship and reconciliation
- To strengthen denominational ties
- To increase the potential for a successful ministry by the next installed pastor

### Five Developmental Tasks

1. Coming to Terms with History
2. Facilitating Shifts in Power and Leadership
3. Seeking a New Identity
4. Rethinking Denominational Linkages
5. Committing to New Leadership and the Future

As Moderator of the Session, I have appointed an eight-member Think Tank Task Force—comprised by four members of Session and four At-large Members from the congregation—to deal with the question: *In light of the above goals and developmental tasks, what must happen at Bower Hill Community Church during the next nine months to prepare ourselves for new leadership?* Even as Dickens once claimed, *Nature gives to every time and season beauties of its own*, it is certainly true for us that God gives a particular beauty to this time of the crucial interval and a specific opportunity to this season of an unfolding interim.

Yours truly for a Season of Opportunity,  
Calvin C. Wilson, Interim Pastor

FEBRUARY 2009



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## COMMUNITY NOTES

Dear BHCC Members,

We want to thank everyone who has taken the time to send cards and letters to Tim while he is in Marine basic training in South Carolina. While they are in boot camp, the recruits do not have access to phones, newspapers, television, computers or even clocks, so mail becomes their only lifeline to home, family and friends.

Here is an excerpt from one of Tim's letters:

"The mail is finally flowing in. The amount of birthday cards I've gotten is amazing, it makes things so much easier. I loved the cards and letters that I have received from the church, especially the ones from Sunday School. The peace dove was awesome; the card from the congregation was incredible. I never knew how much people cared (I knew they cared - but never noticed how much!) Please tell them thanks for me."

We are so moved by how much the love of the Christ, embodied by the church, has touched and supported Tim throughout this experience. We will never take for granted the importance of putting our love for one another into words and actions and how much that can strengthen our relationship with each other and with our Lord. Our family is blessed to be members of such a caring church.

Connie & Dave May



**"So in Christ we who are many form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others.  
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.  
Honor one another above yourselves."**

**Romans 12: 5 & 10**



### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **February 8th**, 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!



#### **February**

*Plain Truth* by Jodi Picoult  
Hostess: To Be Determined

#### **March**

*Them* by Nathan McCall  
Hostess: To Be Determined

### CALL FOR USHERS

Bower Hill Community Church is in need of volunteers to serve the church in the form of Ushers. The Usher teams rotate monthly throughout the calendar year, one month on and one month off.

There are a minimum of four spaces available, but volunteers are welcome in excess of that number. More trained bodies means a lighter load for all, especially in times of illness or when travel arrangements conflict.

In particular, we would like to diversify our teams in gender and age distribution, meaning that this call is especially directed to ladies and youth. Break out your Sunday Smile and bring it to BHCC to share with us! We need you!

Those members in Senior High and older are eligible to participate in this wonderful opportunity to serve the congregation. Please contact Jean Miewald with any questions or in order to offer your time.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**FILL THE TRUCK 2?**

BY REV. LAURIE



In December, I had a conversation with Suzan Krauland at the East End Cooperative Ministry about the Coat Drive and other needs that we might be able to help out with. She said, "Our food pantries are desperate for food. What I'd really like to see is a fill-the-truck project. I heard about one in New Hampshire." She wondered aloud if anyone knew how to do that and if we could inspire the presbytery to do a massive food drive as soon as possible. Little did she know about our project for Mississippi in 2006!

She planted a seed and a group of people gathered, including me, to talk about this effort. Presbytery Council will be considering this at its meeting soon, but our mission committee thought it was a great idea to help our neighbors. So we anticipate a new project will begin in February. I'm not sure if we will fill another truck and collect over 300 boxes of food with the help of our neighbors, but I have a dream that we might! In any event, we hope to collect as much food as possible!

Just as our last food collection effort involved our entire congregation and many leaders who worked on different resources from workplaces to schools to the paper, we will need many hands to make this project a success. If you are interested in being a part of a planning team, please see me. With your help we can again collect an abundance of food!

**SOUPER BOWL OFFERING**

BY REV. LAURIE



As a kick-off to our food drive, we will once again be participating in the Souper Bowl Offering on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The youth will be mounting an effort in their neighborhoods to collect food and a collection will be taken up during worship on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

This year, to increase our collection and provide a strong start to our Food Drive, please consider bringing at least one can of chunky soup, one box of pasta or bag of rice and \$1 to help the pantries buy food. The collection will be taken up during worship as an additional offering for those in need and some of our kids will collect the money in soup pots, so be prepared to help out our neighbors in need. Thank you in advance for your help in this collection.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ANNOUNCED****Notice of Congregation al Meeting**

The Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of Bower Hill Community Church will be held February 22nd immediately following the Worship service. The Annual Report will be available electronically prior to this meeting. Print copies will be produced prior to the meeting by request.



**HOLY COW! BHCC'S VITAL SIGNS:  
A REPORT ON THE CHURCH ASSESMENT  
TOOL RESULTS**

Late last fall, as a start to our pastor search process, Bower Hill members were invited to complete a survey (Church Assessment Tool) to provide a picture of who we are as a church and what directions might be important for our future.

Ninety-one members completed the questionnaire. This was a critical step in providing the information required for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to complete the Church Information Form (CIF), the key means for matching us with potential pastors. The survey was conducted by Holy Cow! Consulting of Columbus, Ohio, consultants who were highly recommended by Pittsburgh Presbytery.

In December, Mr. Russ Crabtree, head of the firm, personally presented an analysis of the survey results to our Session and the PNC. The survey results were also detailed in a 25-page printed report. Session will send a summary of the consultant's report to congregation members within the month. The full report will also be available.

# LENT

The Season of Lent is a forty-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on the day before Easter. Since Sundays commemorate the Resurrection, Sundays are not part of the calculation when we count the forty days. A season of soul-searching, reflection and repentance, Lent originated in the early days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days. In most churches, the liturgical color is purple, the appropriate royal color to prepare for the arrival of the King on Palm Sunday.

For some, fasting is a spiritual discipline related to the rigorous spiritual life. The purpose of fasting for them is to make their bodily appetites their servant rather than their master. In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival *Carnival*, which is Latin for *farewell to meat*. *Adapted from the Rev. Kenneth W. Colins' The Season of Lent*



The Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir at Bower Hill are back in the swing of things as we rehearse weekly to prepare music for Worship. The Handbell Choir is not only preparing music for BHCC's Worship services, but also rehearsing to perform in the North Hills Handbell Festival, which will take place on April 25, 2009.

Both ensembles at Bower Hill are also preparing to provide music for the Lenten Season, which starts at the end of February with Ash Wednesday.

The Chancel Choir's anthem for Ash Wednesday is based on Psalm 51:10-13:



*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.*



In his book, Rehearsing the Soul (Devotions for the Church Choir), Terry York states that we are constantly rehearsing our souls because our words and actions reflect our hearts. There is another level of commitment related to the involvement of being in a church-related ensemble, and that is the musician/Creator issue. *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me."*

The psalmist's prayer should be our prayer each time we gather. There isn't much in the world that helps us prepare for rehearsal. In fact, the world probably thinks our church involvement is a colossal waste of time and energy. We wade through that kind of environment every week to make our way back to this place, this task, this time of spiritual refreshing through music (York).

The clean heart goes with us and is capable of constant renewal and strengthening. The right spirit that goes along with it can cut through the pressure that the world stacks up in the time and path between leaving and returning to church. Throughout this Lenten season, I pray that we find God's message to clean our hearts and renew our spirits.

## ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE BEGINNING OF LENT

BY REV. LAURIE

Believe it or not, before the month of February is over, we will be entering into the season of Lent. On Wednesday, February 25th at 7:30 p.m. we will observe Ash Wednesday at BHCC with a contemplative worship service. The service will include Taize music, silence for contemplation, the imposition of ashes, and communion. Lent is an intentional time in the church year when we are encouraged to consider our relationship with God. It is a time when prayer and spiritual disciplines are emphasized. For me, it has often been a time of new beginnings on my faith journey. I encourage you to enter into a time of thoughtful reflection during this Lenten season.



In an effort to facilitate this, we will once again be offering a Wednesday evening study. Several books and topics are under consideration and more information will be provided soon. The study will begin with a light soup supper at 6:45 p.m. and our conversation will begin at around 7:15 p.m. Our five week study will begin on March 4<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on April 1<sup>st</sup>. As in past years, we will have a sign up for participants to help provide soup and bread each week.

In addition, mark your calendar and plan to attend our special Adult Education offerings on Sunday morning which will have a Lenten focus!



### ADULT EDUCATION IN FEBRUARY

Learning About Our Neighbors:  
Other Houses of Faith



#### February 1

Christian Science  
"Could Christ Jesus Have Been a Scientist?"  
John Tyler  
Christian Science Practitioner and Lecturer

#### February 15

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
"Basic Beliefs of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints"  
President Brennen Murray

#### February 8

Unitarian Universalist Church  
"No Creed? No Problem!"  
Sibyl McNulty

#### February 22

No class due to special congregation meeting

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR OFFICE PUBLICATIONS AT BHCC

All submissions may be made electronically or hard copy for typing. If submitting in non-electronic format, please add a day to the deadline for processing.

### **Bulk and Large Mailings:**

Submissions require a minimum of 10 working business days for design and processing.

### **Bulletin Announcements:**

**All bulletin announcements are due on Wednesday.** Additions or changes to prayer or hospitals lists will be taken as they come with the understanding that, at times, they may not make the publication due to production schedules.



Submission requiring only copying and collating require 5 working business days notice. Bulk mail submissions require that all pieces be identical in size, shape and weight and a particular postage template. See the office for details. Mass mail projects sent via First Class mail will require that the office be notified 5 business days in advance to allow for the procurement of postage. All bulk/mass mailings require representatives from the respective committee to assist in stuffing, labeling, etc.

### **Newsletter Guidelines:**

**All newsletter submissions are due on the 15th of the month.** Separate inserts submitted for the newsletter must be uniform in production to meet bulk guidelines. Generally no more than two inserts can be included in the newsletter. The three business days following the newsletter deadline are reserved for newsletter production. No outside projects will be initiated in this time period.

### **Special Projects:**

In general, copying or print ready materials of 100 pieces or less can be completed within 2 working business days. Larger projects or those that involve production/design will require a minimum of 10 working business days to complete.

**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

**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



BHCC CARE LIST



**Robert M. Gavett**  
05-20-29 to 01-09-09

**Marlene Dellasandro**

# WORSHIP PLANS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY

## Sunday, February 1

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19; Luke 16:19-31  
*PARABLES OF THE HEART: No Need for Ghosts*  
 Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

## Sunday, February 8

Scout Sunday  
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20; Isaiah 40:21-31  
*Have You Not Known? Have You Not Heard?*  
 Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

## Sunday, February 15

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 18:9-14  
*PARABLES OF THE HEART: Infused with Self*  
 Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

## Sunday, February 22

Transfiguration of the Lord  
 II Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9  
*Nail Down the Moment*  
 Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

## COMMUNION SERVERS

Glenn Child	Christine Henney	Choir:
Sally Child	Linda Johnson	Lee Ferraro
Theresa Child	Phil Johnson	Glenna Creaves Karkaria
Mary Good	Tim Lease	

## GREETERS

<b>Feb. 1</b>	Brad May	Dave May	Connie May
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Jim McAnulty	Joan McAnulty	Betty Ewing
<b>Feb. 15</b>	D.J. Geiss	Sherri Geiss	Michelle Patrick
<b>Feb. 22</b>	Jason Rising	Kirsten Rising	Carolyn Phillippe



## LECTORS

<b>Feb. 1</b>	D.J. Geiss
<b>Feb. 8</b>	Boy Scouts
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Michael Waine
<b>Feb, 22</b>	Woody Hughes

## USHERS

Steve Boisvert  
 Bob Bridges  
 Bob Winnett

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, Interim Pastor  
ca@bhccml.com

Rev. Laurie Sponaule, 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

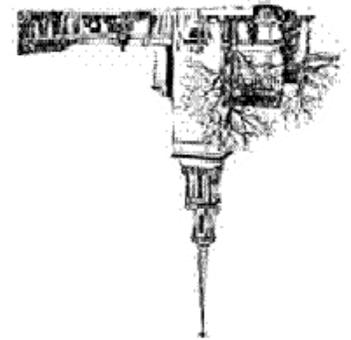
**THE CHURCH OFFICE**

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.



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



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