

BOWER HILL NEWS

What would you do?

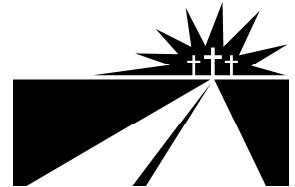
“What would you do if you weren’t afraid?” The question has been running around in my mind. “What would you do if you weren’t afraid?” It’s a question that Haw notices on the wall in the provocative little book by Spencer Johnson, *Who Moved My Cheese*. It is a daring question. It is a question that places on the balancing scale our fears and our dreams. It is a question that begs us to consider the depth of our bravery and perhaps even our willingness to step out and trust. I found this quote by Mary Manin Morrissey: “You block your dream when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith.”

Did you ever consider how much fear blocks our way forward? Recently, a worker for a local mission agency shared the dream of doing a Presbytery-wide food drive. Even though we had a successful Fill the Truck Project in the past, I confess that fear lurked in the dark corners. Could we do it again? Could we inspire the Presbytery to take up the challenge? Happily, my fears did not win the struggle and I found myself in the midst of this important project. Not surprisingly, however, fear has been present throughout the planning and the continuation of this project. Trust and faith have been constantly tested by fear. What helps trust and faith along? Nothing less than the encouragement and support of others! Our Hunger Action Team has once again stepped up to the challenge with total faith in the ability and support of this congregation. There will be a great deal of information and ideas of how to help gather food coming in the weeks ahead, but I couldn’t help but wonder, what if...what if fear had won the day? How often do we let fear keep us from trying? How often do we let fear keep us from stepping forward?

As we begin to turn our faces toward the cross during Lent and join Jesus on his journey, perhaps we should ponder the fear that dwells within us. I met a pastor recently who told me of his practice of sitting down with newly retired folks after a few months of retirement and asking them the question, “If you could do anything for God, what would it be?” Then he offers them work space in the church and support to make it happen. What if this was not just a question for those who have retired, but for all of us? Maybe some of our Lenten discipline should involve questioning what God is calling us to do right now. Consider combining the two questions and struggling with the one question: What would you do if you weren’t afraid and could do anything for God? It may be a question that takes a lifetime to answer, but I can’t help but think that wrestling with it will challenge each of us to become more radically brave. I can’t help but think that wrestling with the question will also encourage us to step forward in faith. I can’t help but think that God would use each of us in amazing ways if we were just daring enough to struggle with the question. So, what would you do? What will you do? What is God calling you to do? Let us wonder and pray on our own and together as we journey along the Lenten path.

-Rev. Laurie

MARCH 2009



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COMMUNITY NOTES

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **March 8th**, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. The food pantry is in particular need of pasta, dry cereal (prefer healthy varieties like Cheerios) and peanut butter.

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.

March

Them

by Nathan McCall

Hostess: Betsy Hohlfelder

April

The Shack

by William P. Young

Hostess: To Be Announced

YOUTH HOAGIE SALE

Once again, BHCC Youth are offering hoagies for sale in support of the Senior Work Trip. Orders can be taken by phone at 412-276-1409. Offered are 12" turkey and/or Italian hoagies at a price of \$6.00. The hoagies will be available for pick-up at church on March 8th, or arrangements can be made for delivery.

MEETING MARCH 1 FOR FAITH IN ACTION DAY

Ideas for projects and structure for a repeat of Bower Hill Church's innovative and acclaimed 2008 Faith in Action Day (Don't Go to Church, Be the Church) will be generated at a brain-storming meeting on Sunday, March 1 at 11:45 AM in the first floor lounge. The meeting is open to all who want to participate in the project. The Mission Committee is looking to schedule Faith in Action Day in 2009 in mid to late September. On March 1, Dave Green will facilitate a free-ranging discussion of possible projects and the means of leading and managing them. Input from all members of the congregation is welcome. In 2008, Faith in Action Day was held on a Sunday in April. Church worship services were not held that day. Instead, Bower Hill members and others from the community worshiped God by performing four community services: a clean-up of trails in Scott Woods Park; sewing comfort pillows for patients at St. Clair Hospital; cooking a meal for the women of Miryam's House, a shelter in Pittsburgh; and participating in a forum on autism. Sunday, March 1 at 11:45 AM is your opportunity to help plan our congregation's unique mission project to the community in 2009. Dave Green promises that the meeting will not last more than one hour.

UPDATE FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

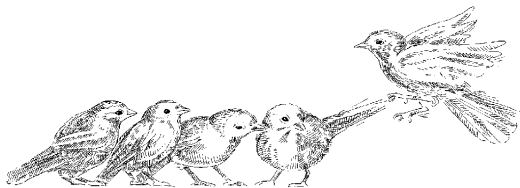
Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly to work on the Church Information Form (CIF). This is the document that will be posted by Presbytery on their job-search website. It will be available for review by pastors who are seeking new positions of leadership within the Presbyterian Church on a national basis.

We have completed the CIF sections covering Mission Statement, Church Programs and Accomplishments, Church Gifts, Skills and Experiences, Pastor Skills and Pastor Characteristics. The final section is Key Theological Issues and this is a bit tougher to answer. We plan to complete the form by the end of February. After this, it will be reviewed by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and then submitted to BHCC Session for approval at their March meeting. Once the CIF has been approved by Session and the Presbytery, it will be posted on the Presbytery website, and the next phase of the search process begins.



During this time, the PNC plans to visit some area churches that are growing to get some ideas about their programs and worship services. We will also be open to receiving referrals from pastors who are seeking a change in employment and might be interested in Bower Hill. Please continue to pray for us as we enter this next phase of our search.

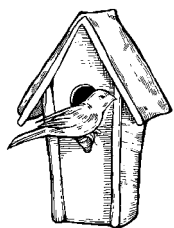
If you have any questions or ideas to discuss with the PNC, please contact us and give us your input. We are always willing to listen. Members of the PNC are Theresa Child, Mary Good, Dave Hicks, Rick Jacobs, Gordon Mitchell, Kiri Rising, and Margaret Zabo.



OUR CHURCH WELCOMES

**ON FEBRUARY 22ND, FOUR NEW MEMBERS
BECAME A PART OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY.**

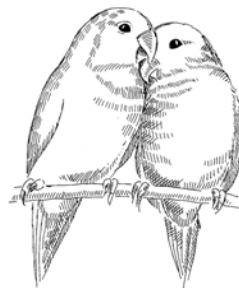
ELIZABETH S. WILSON AND EMILY CHIN



Known to my husband as Elizabeth and most others as Beth, I am excited to be a member of this congregation after my first acquaintance with BHCC fifteen years ago. It was August 21, 1993 that Cal and I exchanged our wedding vows here with our two children Benjamin and Emily, now 23 and 21 years of age. We enjoyed knowing the members of Bower Hill during our first interim those many years ago, and it is now a privilege to return for a second interim and accept the responsibility of membership. Cal and I continue to live in Mt. Lebanon, while Benjamin lives in Maine, where he is employed as a Community Organizer for Maine People's Alliance; and Emily is a junior at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, although she is studying abroad this year: last semester in Mali, Africa; this semester in Nantes, France. My roots as a Presbyterian date back to my infant baptism and to my ordination as Elder in 1987. As a Christian woman, my journey has included teaching, Evangelism, Stewardship, Fellowship and Mission; professionally I am a Psychiatric Social Worker at Craig Academy. I feel richly blessed and honored to serve among you.

NORMA GRUBB

It is nice to have this opportunity to share a few details of my life. I am happy to be a member of BHCC, where Pete is an Elder, and hope that I may be of service here. Although I am a native Pittsburgher, I had lived the past 23 years in Columbus, Ohio until Pete Fenton and I were married August 16, 2008. It is quite remarkable (to us) how knowing each other since childhood, we became reacquainted and eventually married. We are very happy and feel that the Lord had a large part in it, and we are grateful for that. Growing up, I have fond memories of Banksville Baptist Church where our family regularly attended. It was an indispensable part of our lives; as was Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, where I was baptized by immersion at 12 and married at 23; Mt. Lebanon U. P. Church, where our daughter, Janet Ann, grew up; or Olentangy Christian Reformed Church in Columbus, Ohio, and the friends in Christ there. I worked as a secretary for many years and took early retirement when we moved to Columbus to be near our daughter. Janet graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School, Marietta College, and Capital University Law School, She is a judge in Franklin County Municipal Court, Columbus, Ohio. I have (or have had) many hobbies and interests, including Bible study, drawing, painting, sewing, silversmithing, writing poetry, and Elderhostels.



LINDA GOLDBACH



I am a life-long resident of Pittsburgh, currently residing in Scott Township. I have brothers with families living in Upper St. Clair and McCandless, and a mother living in Whitehall. I have worked at Allegheny General Hospital for 22 years, and am presently the unit facilitator (nurse educator) for the Intensive Care Nursery. I am also pursuing an on-line Master of Science in Nursing Education degree through Indiana Wesleyan University. Although raised Catholic, and most recently an inactive member of SS Simon and Jude Parish, I had been looking for a new church home. The warm and friendly welcome I received from the BHCC members initially at the "Be the Church" day and since, brought me back to join in worship. The church members, and the pastors, both regular and interim, inspired me to join the church. I am thankful for the opportunity to believe, belong and become along with the people of BHCC.



The Chancel Choir will be providing a cantata entitled "*The Shadow of the Cross—a Contemporary Tenebrae Service*" for the Good Friday Evening Service on April 10th at 7:30 p.m. This cantata will feature both contemporary and traditional selections. Seven readings accompanied by the extinguishing of candles brings this service to a meditative conclusion shrouded in darkness.

The "service of darkness," or Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness"), dates back to the 4th century according to some sources. Traditionally observed during Holy Week, it focuses on the final hours of Jesus' life and crucifixion. *The Shadow of the Cross* is a reminder of the magnitude of God's love, a love so great that it continues through all time and eternity. For shadows to exist, there must be light. In the case of the Passion story of our Lord, that light, as the gospel of John tells us, "was the light of all people" (John 1:4). *The Shadow of the Cross* walks us through the final hours of Jesus' life including His crucifixion. But as John affirms, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). In its original form, the cross was a tool of execution, or

death. But in the eyes of faith, it symbolizes victory and life eternal! In a day when the powers of evil threaten to destroy our optimism for a brighter tomorrow, the cross stands as a reminder that love is stronger than hate, and that hope prevails in times of despair. Standing in the shadow of the cross, we find comfort and courage in knowing that we can live in a future that is ultimately of God's making! (Lloyd Larson, arranger and composer of *The Shadow of the Cross*)

***Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock
within a weary land...
I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place...
~Elizabeth C. Clephane***

In addition to the Chancel Choir's preparations for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, the Handbell Choir is also quite busy. They are working on Lenten music, as well as practicing pieces for the North Hills Handbell Festival. The festival will take place April 25th at Marshall Middle School (part of North Allegheny School District). There will be a public concert at 5:00 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION IN MARCH

Images of the Atonement in Scripture and Film



The theme for the Adult Education Class on the five Sunday mornings of March will be "Images of the Atonement in Scripture and Film." In their effort to understand the death of Christ, the authors of the New Testament used several images from everyday life—images from personal relationships, the marketplace, the military battlefield, and the Temple. Each week we'll examine one of these images and view a brief clip from a contemporary film related to that image. Films will be selected from a list that includes *Hotel Rwanda*, *Les Misérables*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Romero*, *Lord of the Rings*, *The English Patient*, and *The Passion of Christ*.

The class will meet in the Library from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. Leadership for the series will be shared by the Rev. John Mehl—who has served several congregations in the Pittsburgh area and from 1985 to 2001 was the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary—and the Rev. Frank Bates, former Director of the Kerygma Program.

LENTEN EVENTS AND MORE

BOOK STUDY OFFERED THROUGH LENT

LENTEN BOOK STUDY



Imagine if you could deepen your prayer life, grow closer to God and feel more comfortable sharing your faith. During our Wednesday Lenten Series, we will be studying and praying through the book *Unbinding Your Heart: 40 Days of Prayer and Faith Sharing* by Martha Grace Reece. We will explore the dreaded e-word (Evangelism), why it is important and how we can be more comfortable doing it. This is an experiential study that includes daily scripture reading and prayer exercises. It is designed to help individuals and communities to deepen their faith and grow closer to God and one another. Come and join us for an unforgettable and transformational study. The study will begin on Wednesday, March 4th with a light soup supper at 6:45 p.m., and our conversation will begin around 7:15 p.m. If three or more people are interested in a daytime study, please see Rev. Laurie and she will be happy to lead a daytime group!

HOME COMMUNION OFFERED DURING LENT

Since Lent is a time for reflection and communing with God in an intimate way, the pastors will be providing home communion for members who are homebound or find it difficult to get to church services during this sacred season. If you would like to have one of the pastors visit and share the Lord's Supper with you, please contact the church office (412-561-4114) to schedule a mutually convenient time for communion in your home.

HELP THE TREE OF LIFE TO GROW!

During Lent we will be collecting food for the Wallace Food Pantry and other local food pantries that are in desperate need of food. The food collection began on Ash Wednesday, February 25, and will continue until Palm Sunday, April 5. Donations can be left in boxes by the office entrance or outside the sanctuary, or they can be placed on the tree in the chancel of the sanctuary.



How to make an impact this week:

- Bring a can or box of food to the church every time you walk through the door...for worship, meetings, education, etc.
- Next Sunday bring 3 cans of fruits or vegetables with you to worship for our tree of life.
- Try fasting for one meal or for a day and donate the \$ you would have spent on food to the food drive.
- Make a commitment not to go out to eat and use the money saved to buy food or donate the \$ to the food drive.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Please join us for our Agape Feast and Communion in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. on April 9.

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



Bower Hill will again participate in this service offered at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church on April 10 from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m. Each participating church offers a homily or sermon and music based on one of the last utterances of Christ at his crucifixion. You are invited to come and worship for a single church's offerings or for the entire service.

EASTER LILIES OFFERED

Bower Hill will once again offer the congregation the opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily to be displayed on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Plants are \$12.50, deadline for ordering is March 22nd. Make checks payable to BHCC with LILY in the memo.

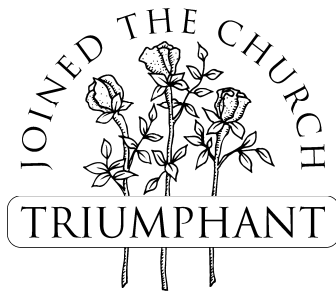
Name _____

Number of Plants _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory Of _____

**Attach additional sheets as needed*



Pat Metheny

2-13-09

Memorial Services
will be held March 21st at 11 a.m.
at Bower Hill Community Church.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to the members of Bower Hill for all the cards, visits, cookies, candy, phone calls and, most of all, prayers while I've been recovering from surgery. It was comforting to know that so many people were thinking of me and praying for me, especially when the surgery and recovery became more complicated than originally anticipated.

The support and compassion you've shown will be remembered long after the healing has been completed.

Theresa Child
(and Glenn and Sally)



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
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
Pete Hoffman, friend of Erin Hohlfelder, battling cancer

WORSHIP PLANS AND FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 1

First Sunday in Lent
Matthew 27:32-44

WORDS TO THE CROSS: Come Down
Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, March 8

Second Sunday in Lent
Luke 23:32-41

WORDS TO THE CROSS: Save Yourself and Us
Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

Sunday, March 15

Third Sunday in Lent
Luke 23:39-43

WORDS TO THE CROSS: Remember Me
Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Matthew 27:45-50

WORDS TO THE CROSS: Will Elijah Come?
Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent
Matthew 27:50-56

WORDS TO THE CROSS: This Is God's Son
Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill Andrews

Nancy Andrews

Marian Brannan

Eleanora Freas

George Freas

LuAnn McNickle

Todd Westerhoff

Carolyn Westerhoff

Choir:

Jean Miewald

Margaret Zabo

GREETERS

March 1	Michael Waine	Mary Beth Waine	Jenny Ramaley
March 8	George Vosburgh	Joanne Vosburgh	Carolyn Westerhoff
March 15	Cindy Waller	Mary Good	Dave Stewart
March 22	Bill Cadwell	Julia Snead	John Theilacker
March 29	Todd Westerhoff	Christie Westerhoff	Donna Williams

LECTORS

March 1	Joan Bridges
March 8	Dave Green
March 15	Jason Rising
March 22	Cynthia Gissin
March 29	Phil Johnson

USHERS

Jim Corbett	Earl Kennedy
Lucille Heckman	Bill Ramsey
Woody Hughes	

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

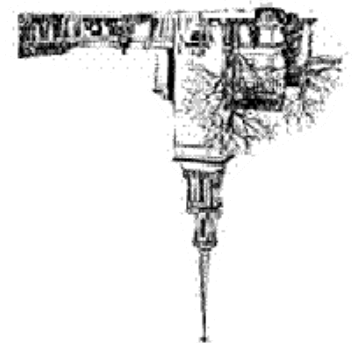
THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.



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



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70 Moffett Street

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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