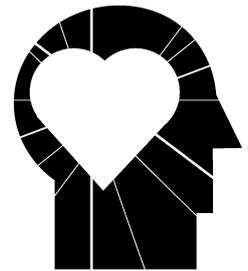


# BOWER HILL NEWS

MAY 2009



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Dear Friends,

If I were to cite one bond that seems to draw us together, it is the perpetual search for significance, especially in light of the Psalmist's words that reverberate throughout the heavenly spheres:

*O Lord, our Lord,  
How majestic is thy name in all the earth! ...  
When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,  
the moon and the stars which thou hast established;  
what are human beings that thou art mindful of them,  
and mortals that thou dost care for them? (Psalm 8:1, 3-4)*

It is reported that the star Betelgeuse, which forms the right shoulder of the constellation Orion, is 400 million times larger than our sun. How unimportant we seem!—like ants to an Mt. Everest—inhabiting a world that is but a miniscule entity in a vast, endless, silent space. A common denominator for all of us seems to be the universal search for personal significance.

A number of years ago, Antoinette Wyke took her seven-year-old daughter to the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center located at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. As they leaned back in their cushioned seats and as the room darkened, there soon unfolded before them a panoramic sky of spectacular brilliance and infinite complexity: planets in our solar system whirled with breathtaking speed around the sun; the Milky Way appeared in its unparalleled luminosity; eighty-eight graphic constellations marked off the divisions of the heavens, constellations such as the Charioteer, Cassiopeia, Orion, Pegasus, the Archer, Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, and Taurus the Bull, which contained the magnificent clusters of stars known as the Pleiades and the Hyades. At the conclusion of that cosmic spectacle, mother and daughter left the planetarium and moved into the night, thick darkness surrounding them. Antoinette Wyke looked up into the heavens and beheld with her naked eye the same overpowering splendor she had witnessed in the theatre. She was immediately struck by her insignificance as one infinitesimal dot on a tiny planet in a remote corner of the universe. In that unbearable recognition, her previous sense of well-being was dramatically reduced to an irrefutable sensation of futility. She too could have cried out: *Who has put me here? (and for what purpose?)* I am as a *guest that tarrieth but a day.* (Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*, Section III, 206) But then, moving slowly through the darkness, Wyke's seven-year-old daughter reached for her mother's hand, which she instinctively found in an instant. Ah, thought Wyke, here is the answer to the human equation: the essential component is love.

A member of our congregation often says: *There is only love.* In light of this, it seems that the Source of our significance is love, the essential component of the human equation. When we feel alone in the silence of the vast, endless universe, searching for significance; when we feel alone in the dark night of our soul or in a dark night on a dark road upon a dark earth, then it would be well for us to find someone to love or to love well someone we have already found . . . God does! and that someone is you, and it is I.

Faithfully yours,  
Calvin C. Wilson

### COMMUNITY NOTES

#### NOT ANOTHER SURVEY

In last month's newsletter we talked about using another survey called The Family Tree. The Family Tree is a tool for helping a pastor to better understand both individuals and relationships in a church. In order to reduce costs we have included it as an insert in this newsletter. Please look for it and consider participating. If for some reason the insert is missing, please contact the office for a copy.

#### 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](http://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.

#### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **May 10th**, 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.

**May 26th**  
*Dreams of My Father*  
by Barack Obama  
Hostess: Nina Helbling



#### END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



The Annual BHCC Church Picnic will be held after services on May 17. Children will participate in games beginning at 10:45 a.m., outside if we are blessed with good

weather. An all-church lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. You are asked to bring a dish to share. Suggestions are chips, drinks, salads or dessert. Grill Masters are also needed to cook the community food. See Pastor Laurie for more information or to volunteer.

#### MISSION OPPORTUNITY



May 16th is Mission Day at Camp Crestfield. We will meet in the church parking lot at 8 a.m. and carpool to Crestfield to participate in a day of service to the camp. A variety of activities are available to all ages and ability levels. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Pastor Laurie with any questions or to sign up at [la@bhccml.com](mailto:la@bhccml.com) or by calling the church office at (412)561-4114.

#### Local Mission Volunteers

#### MONTHLY OFFICE UPKEEP DAY

The office will be closed Friday, May 1st for filing and paperwork purposes. Phone messages will be checked at the beginning, middle and end of the day in order to keep abreast of critical occurrences, but no external business will be introduced during the day.

Your staff will use these "Office House Days" to ensure that your paperwork, files and computer documents are maintained and cleaned on a regular basis.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in keeping BHCC on the right track and allowing your staff to better serve you!



## COMMUNITY NOTES

### NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By official call of the Session, the Second 2009 Semi-Annual Meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will be held on Sunday, May 17, immediately following the service of worship in the sanctuary. The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees for the offices of Elders and Deacons to be elected by the congregation. Persons may also be nominated from the floor. Such nominations should have the consent of the persons being nominated prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting.

Phyllis Yohe, Clerk of Session



## Congregational Meeting

### PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE



By the time this is delivered to your mailbox the committee may have already received the resume of our future pastor. On April 7<sup>th</sup> we learned that our CIF (Church Information Form) had been accepted by Pittsburgh Presbytery and was now available on the Church Leadership Connection. This is the website that pastors looking for a new position would log into to see information from churches that are looking to fill a vacancy. There is also a matching component of this process. Our CIF will be compared to Pastor Information Forms (PIFs), and resumes of those who meet our criteria will be sent to us for review. Pastors searching will also be able to "self-refer" their resumes to us. We have already received the first batch of resumes and a self-referral, so our review process has already begun.

The PNC worked together since early January to prepare the CIF so that any pastor searching for a new call would know who we are, what our church is about, and be attracted to want to get to know us better by submitting their resume in response to our listing. We used the findings of the recent survey members completed. We talked to members and former members to be sure we were presenting a clear picture of Bower Hill at this time. Session met with the committee and further defined the information included in the form. We listed three references, Cal Wilson, Beverly James and John Yohe as people anyone could call to ask questions about Bower Hill. As we complete the review of PIFs we already have, we can request additional matches and referrals from Presbytery. After resumes have been reviewed, we will contact possible candidates for phone and or personal interviews.

The committee continues to request your prayers.

### REACHING OUT TO VISITORS AT BOWER HILL CHURCH



We as a congregation should make visitors welcome and encourage them to return and be a part of our witness to Jesus Christ. The Evangelism and Membership Committee is requesting everyone to personally greet visitors at the worship services and other church activities. After you greet visitors please take them to the guest book in the narthex and ask them to sign their name and address. Contact Jim or Joan McAnulty and provide them with the name and information about the visitors. Keith Mason, of the Evangelism and Membership Committee, will send them a personal welcome and a needlework cross. For those visitors who live in the Pittsburgh area, we will keep in touch and encourage them to return.

**Sunday, May 3**

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Celebration of Holy Communion

Job 42:1-6; Colossians 15:13-20

*Back in the Shack with Mack*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

**Sunday, May 10**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 1 John 4:7-21

*Family of Faith*

Youth Sunday

**Sunday, May 17**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Baptism: Delaney  
McDonough

Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24

*Abiding in Love*

The Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

**Sunday, May 24**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Memorial Day Sunday

Isaiah 2:1-4; Matthew 12:22-28

*And So Today*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

**Sunday, May 31**

Pentecost

Ordination/Installation of New Officers

Acts 2:1-13

*Filled with New Wine*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

**BHCC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS VIA CONFIRMATION**

On Sunday, April 19th, two new members were accepted into our family of faith.

Below are the statements of faith presented to Session by the Confirmands.



**LOGAN SCHARDT**

My journey has been a tough one, with many bumps and retracing paths to only end up where I started. I have been told many stories about our religion and about God, but as I went through confirmation, I realized my relationship with God is not about what other people tell me; it is what I believe and how I treat my relationship with God. If I sin, God will forgive me, and for that, I am thankful to have a person to trust me so well that whatever mistake I make, I can move on from. If there really is a Hell, those people must, sadly, not believe in God, because He would have forgiven them. I believe that God has a place waiting for me in Heaven, and He will love me for all of eternity because I believe that He loves me and all the things of the world. I am glad to have found my official start of my journey with God, and I want to continue to expand my knowledge of God and put my faith in action to help someone else believe in God. Even if I find an occasional bump in the road on my journey, I know that God will be there to pick me up if I fall.

**JAIME LEASE**

In my life, so far I have been told many things.

One thing I have been told is that there is God, a Holy Spirit, and our Savior, Jesus Christ. But I do not know why I have been told this. I do know that God created the world, the moon, the stars, and everything else.

One thing that I think is that God did not create evil we ourselves created it. I do know that Jesus died on the cross for us, giving up his life so we could move on.

I do believe that all of that happened. I do believe in God and Jesus. On my faith journey, I do believe that one day I could state what I believe and not what I've been told.

I do want to continue my way into Christianity, even if I do not fully understand. And that is what we have to do we have to keep moving forward.

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



The Morningside Trio, named after the Morningside neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was founded in early 2007 as a collaboration of three active chamber musicians to explore the surprising wealth of music written for the combination of clarinet, cello, and piano. Their goal is to produce high quality performances of programs containing lesser known works from compositional masters and new works from emerging contemporary composers for the Pittsburgh community. The Morningside Trio will be giving a concert in the Bower Hill Community Church sanctuary, Sunday, May 17, at 4:00pm. Reception will follow.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the individuals who have participated in providing music for Worship throughout this program year. Soloists, instrumentalists, and especially the members of the Chancel and Handbell Choirs—you are all much appreciated. Thank you for your time and energy, and thank you for your willingness to serve.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." ~Philippians 3:6*

  
*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**  


## ADULT EDUCATION IN MAY

Adult Education

**May 3: Transforming Lives- The Blessings of Camp Ministry**

Betty Angelini, the Executive Director of Camp Crestfield, a mission and ministry of the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Betty has served as the Director for 4 years and her contagious energy has brought new life and depth to the programming at camp. Come learn more about the wonderful ministry at Camp Crestfield in anticipation of our partnership with the camp for this year's Vacation Bible School and our Mission/Service day at Camp on May 16.

**May 10: Are Our Veterans Well Served?**

Ronald Connelly

Director of Allegheny County Veteran Services Department  
Mr. Connelly will describe efforts to assist veterans with problems of housing, employment, legal issues, and physical and emotional health care. Mr. Connelly is past national commander of the American Legion.

**May 17: The Lessons of a Tricycle**

Elizabeth S. Wilson

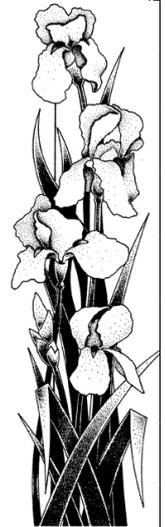
Psychiatric Social Worker, Craig Academy  
This presentation will examine the importance of fostering the social and emotional competence of our youth.

Bower Hill Community Church extends its prayers and sympathies to the families and friends of our members who were recently called home.



Leland McCauley  
December 4, 1919 to April 9, 2009

Eleanor Ramsey  
April 8, 1917 to April 16, 2009



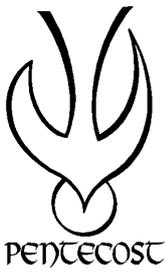
CARE LIST



**BHCC CARE LIST**

- Margie and Rol 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
- Paul Frock**, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Apt. #1212, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
- Truman Kohman**, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Apt. #1430, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS BY MARGARET ZABO



### Pentecost Geraniums

DECORATE THE CHURCH OR YOUR OWN GARDEN

Any proceeds help The Senior High Work Trip

\$5.00 for one 4 inch pot

Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up my plants.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will leave them to be planted at BHCC.

Please return to the Church Office, or drop in the Sunday Collection Plate by Sunday, May 3rd.

THANK YOU!

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Debbi Boisvert

Dotty Post

Choir:

Steve Boisvert

Bill Spangenberg

Lynn Wohleber

Betty Ewing

Cindy Waller

Joan Zakor

Chan Ketchum

### GREETERS

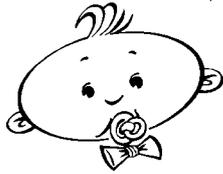
<b>May 3</b>	Susan Hicks	Dave Hicks	Ginny Starr
<b>May 10</b>	Dennis Geis	Nancy Geiss	Judy Delestienne
<b>May 17</b>	Dave Green	Nancy Green	Nina Helbling
<b>May 31</b>	Time Lease	Darenda Lease	Cynthia Gissin

### LECTORS

<b>May 3</b>	Jaime Lease
<b>May 10</b>	Dave Green
<b>May 17</b>	Theresa Child

### USHERS

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



DJ & Sheri Geis are the proud parents  
of a new baby boy!

**Owen Thomas Geis**  
**4/22/09**  
**8 lbs., 15 oz.**  
**20 inches long**

Leo & Jacob are very excited big brothers.  
Dennis & Nancy Geis are  
the very, very proud grandparents!

**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

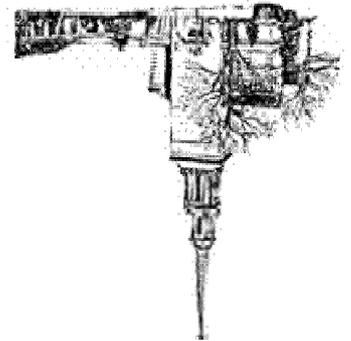
Michael Bergen, Custodian

**THE CHURCH OFFICE**

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

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



Phone: 412-561-4114  
Fax: 412-561-2252  
E-mail: office@bhccml.com

POWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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