

# BOWER HILL NEWS



## *"Who Helped You?"*

Who helped you to grow closer in your relationship with God? I would imagine there have been a multitude of people that have inspired you and encouraged you to know God in both obvious and subtle ways. A few weeks ago, when the youth led worship and encouraged us to think about those people, many came to my mind and I wondered if they would be surprised that I had thought of them. Would the people on your list be surprised that they had helped you? Would you be surprised to find your name on someone's list? During Lent, when some in the congregation explored the book *Unbinding your Heart* by Martha Grace Reese, I was surprised to discover that the people who helped in our faith journey could be called evangelists. In the book, Reese redefines evangelism as, "anything you do to help another person move closer to a relationship with God, or into Christian community" (p. 13).

When you think about it that way, evangelism takes place not only outside the church, but inside as well, when we help one another along the way to know God better. And we are intentionally practicing evangelism when we teach our children and youth. This is a point that is made by Reese as well, as she emphasizes that the purpose of Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and youth gatherings is to help children and youth move closer to a relationship with God. I don't know why we don't typically think about these programs that way. Instead we think only about those outside the church. We also think about our education programs as opportunities to learn information rather than seeing their purpose and content as opportunities for developing a relationship with God. As we begin to plan for our summer programming and as we look to the fall, I wonder what would happen if we focused intently on this idea of helping the children and youth to grow in relationship with God and the church.

With Vacation Bible School on the horizon, I hope you will join me in struggling with the question of how we can better help the children and youth to grow closer to God this summer. Perhaps God is calling you to be a part of this effort by volunteering to help. Perhaps the experiences of God in your life could help you connect to a child and inspire them to want to know God better. Or maybe you could join us in intentionally praying for the programs that will be offered and the children that will be experiencing them, especially offering prayers that they will grow closer to God because of what we are doing on God's behalf. Wouldn't it be wonderful if years from now the children were asked, "Who helped you to grow in your relationship with God?" and our names and our church's name were foremost in their minds? Let this be our focus and our prayer as we go forward in the months ahead.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laurie

JUNE 2009

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### GRACIOUS WELCOME GIVEN TO VISITORS



I would like to thank everybody for the welcome you gave the guys from our group home on their first visit to Bower Hill Church. A lot of the individuals at group homes aren't interested in going to church, but Mike and Felix, two of the three residents at our house, seem to like it. The way things are going, that's not likely to change in the future.

I don't think anybody could have given them a better welcome than the one they got here.

~ Dave Stewart

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **June 14th**, 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.

**JUNE 16TH**

Hostess: Margaret Zabo

*City of Thieves* by David Benioff

### WHO IS THE PNC?



Members of the  
Pastor Nominating Committee  
are as follows:

Rick Jacobs, Chair

Theresa Child

Mary Good

Dave Hicks

Gordon Mitchell

Kiri Rising

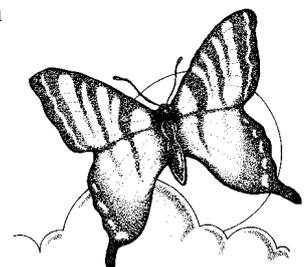
Margaret Zabo

### UPDATE: PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to search for the new Head of Staff for Bower Hill Community Church. To date there have been 265 "hits" to our Church Information Form (CIF). "Hits" are when a Pastor Information Form (PIF) with similar information comes up as being a possible match to Bower Hill's CIF. These hits were automatically screened and 28 PIFs were found to have more of the criteria for which the committee is looking. These PIFs have been forwarded to the PNC. There have also been 16 self referrals. Self referrals are pastors searching for new positions who have reviewed our CIF, like what they see and have sent their PIF directly to the PNC.

To date we have reviewed 28 PIFs and contacted 8 people for preliminary interviews. After these interviews and talking to their references, we have eliminated three and had a group telephone conversation with one. The other four continue to be definite possibilities and group telephone interviews with them will be scheduled in the near future. With the use of technology the committee is able to review many of the resumes on-line, listen to sermons on CD's and gain more information about each candidate through the Internet. Presbytery continues to send us PIFs to review. The committee meets at least once a week and communicates almost daily by e-mail. We are excited about the people with whom we have spoken and look forward to more in-depth discussions with each of them.

The committee continues to request your prayers.



## NEW AND IMPROVED CHURCH CALENDAR

We have a new and improved method to keep track of the church's events. We used to maintain a master calendar on Emily's PC from which printouts would be generated for the newsletter and bulletin. This was also the source of the web site's calendar which was typically loaded at the end of the month. One problem with this process was that any updates to Emily's master calendar were not automatically transferred to the web site and any printed calendars were out of date.

The master calendar will now be maintained on a web site that specializes in hosting church calendars. When Emily makes a change, the change is immediately available for anyone with internet access. We will still create bulletins and newsletters based on the web calendar. But with the immediate update and internet accessibility, it will make it easier for the staff, committee members, members and non-members to have access to the up-to-date calendar.

The online calendar has many of the features of our old web calendar, such as ability to scroll to any month and see details on events. But it has some nice additional fea-

tures, such as sending an email reminder to yourself about an event, sending an email to a friend about an event, and printing a weekly or monthly calendar from you home PC.



To access the calendar, go to our web site

[www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com), click on the menu item News/Events, then click on sub-menu item Calendar. This page gives a list of hints for using the calendar. Click on the link Go To Bower Hill Online Calendar at the bottom of the page to view the calendar.

To complement the calendar system, we now have a standardized form for adding events to the calendar, newsletter or bulletin. Copies are enclosed in this issue of the newsletter. Please submit this form to add any appointment or information to our publications. Electronic versions are available via the office for those who wish to use email.

## VBS: EXTREME MAKEOVER 2009, COME JOIN IN!



### VBS HIGHLIGHTS

- \$5 fee!
- Pre-K through 5th grade
- 6/29 - 7/2
- 9 a.m. to noon
- Field Trip to Crestfield on Wed. for k-5 completed!
- Volunteers needed!

Where can you spend an unforgettable week immersed in the love of God and surrounded by joy and laughter? At Vacation Bible School, of course! Only this year, our VBS is experiencing an extreme makeover courtesy of the Crestfield Camp and Conference Center. At Day Camp, we will explore the theme *Called to Serve* and each day we will hear a story, play some games, make a craft, etc. Two exciting new additions to the program this year include learning and experiencing a new daily devotional practice every day and participating in a daily hands on mission project.

Planning is underway and volunteers are needed, so check your calendar and sign up to help! This year our VBS will be held Monday June 29-Thursday July 2. Children in preschool through grade five are invited

to experience the fun. (three-year-olds are welcome to attend with a parent.) The program for preschool and kindergarten age children will take place at Bower Hill from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Monday through Thursday with our traditional picnic on Friday at the end of the program. Children who have completed kindergarten- 5<sup>th</sup> grade will also be at Bower Hill on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9-12. On Wednesday July 1, after gathering at Bower Hill, they will climb aboard a magic school bus which will whisk them away to Camp Crestfield in Slippery Rock, Pa. After experiencing a day of camp, we will return to the church around 6 p.m.! The cost for day camp is only \$5 this year thanks to the generosity of the Pittsburgh Presbytery. Registration forms are available in the church office and the narthex. Please pick an extra form up and share it with a friend!

All volunteers should see Rev. Laurie or call the church office at 412-561-4114. We especially need help with the preschool program and with the picnic on Friday. A training session will be held for all volunteers on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the church.

Help us spread the word and get ready for an amazing week!

## COMPANY OF PASTORS ANNOUNCED

### PRESENTING THE COMPANY OF PASTORS

At its Regular Meeting on April 27, 2009, the Session voted to extend an invitation to the Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason and the Rev. John Yohe to serve as the Company of Pastors here at Bower Hill Community Church for the duration of the Interim Period and until the Rev. Calvin C. Wilson concludes his interim ministry among us. The two members of the Company of Pastor will work with the Interim Pastor and Pastor Laurie Sponaugle, participating in worship on a rotating basis, preaching as the occasion arises, leading Bible classes and/or other adult studies, conducting grief support groups and whatever else the Session, the pastors, and members of the Company of Pastors would mutually choose to engage in mission and ministry in and through our congregation. We are deeply indebted to these two pastors, since each of them has agreed to voluntarily serve in this capacity without remuneration. It is our pleasure to present to you The Rev. John Yohe (who is no stranger to us) and the Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason.

### JOHN YOHE

- Morningside Presbyterian Church 1958 – 1961
- Chartiers Valley U. P. Church 1961 – 2000
- Former Special Services Chaplain at Mayview State Hospital
- Former Chaplain at John J. Kane Hospital
- Currently appointed Moderator of the Buena Vista U. P. Church
- Periodically supplying the pulpit at Buena Vista U. P. Church and the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Donora in the Washington Presbytery
- Member of E & M committee at Bower Hill
- Has served on the Presbytery Camp, Nominating and Ecclesiastical Committees
- Current Secretary of Scott Township Emergency Medical Service, Secretary of the South Hills Firemen's Association and Treasurer of the Scott Township Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association



### GRAFTON ELIASON



A resident of Mt. Lebanon, The Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason is an ordained Presbyterian Minister of Word and Sacrament who is also an Associate Professor of Counselor Education and Coordinator of School Counseling at California University of Pennsylvania, where he has taught since September 2004. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University with a B.A. in English and Psychology and a M.Ed. in School Counseling. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1990, his Doctor of Education degree from Duquesne University in 2000, and his Cultural Immersion degree from Mar Thoma Theological Seminary, India in 1988. As a Licensed Professional Counselor in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Grafton has published prolifically and received numerous honors in his field. He is deeply devoted to mission and has led numerous college student groups on mission trips to Peru, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. He has facilitated pastoral care and counseling groups on grief & loss, has taught adult education courses and preached on special occasions, and currently serves as Chaplain and Coordinator of the Spirituality Program at The Woodlands Camp for children with disabilities, implementing the spirituality component and supervising interns from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We welcome Grafton Eliason to our mutual ministry and mission outreach.



## 2009-2010 ELDERS AND DEACONS

### ELDERS

Steve Boisvert  
 Bill Cadwell  
 Glenn Child  
 DJ Geis Jr.  
 Dave Green  
 Susan Hicks  
 Alan Hohlfelder  
 Pat Jacobs  
 Kurt Kerner  
 Chan Ketchum  
 Tim Lease  
 Jim McAnulty  
 Joan McAnulty  
 Mary Beth Waine  
 Todd Westerhoff  
 Lynne Wohleber  
 Phyllis Yohe

### DEACONS

Theresa Child  
 Nancy Geis  
 Katherine Junker  
 Linda Johnson  
 Anne Mitchell  
 Nancy Criswell  
 Nancy Green  
 Doris Olinger  
 Dave Stewart  
 Nancy Andrews  
 Mary Good  
 Kathy Philson

## BHCC HIRES NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR



It is with unbounded joy that the Youth Ministries Committee announces the appointment of our new Director of Youth Ministries, Daniel Getkin. Dan is a 2008 Cum Laude graduate of Allegheny College, Meadville, with a Bachelor of Arts in History and minors in Religious Studies and Political Science.

While at Allegheny College, he was an Alden Scholar and served as a worship leader for Campus Crusade and Sojourners. Currently completing his first year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Dan plans to be married in August and will continue in his second year as a fulltime student at the seminary while serving as Director of Youth Ministries here at BHCC.

Our new Youth Director brings a wealth of experience and talent to this position, including his Youth Ministry Internship at Fox Chapel Episcopal Church, where he led weekly youth group meetings for middle and high school students, planned youth group meetings, attended school activities that youth were participating in during the week, and led contemporary-style worship team planning.

**WELCOME, DAN!**

Dan is an accomplished musician and song-writer, proficient in guitar, bass, drums, and vocals. Having served on the Program Staff of The Pittsburgh Project every summer from 2005 – 2008, Dan has an enormous heart for mission and youth involvement in mission outreach.

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

Summer is here!

There are many opportunities for you to share your music during the summer Worship services.

If you are not involved in the Bower Hill ensembles because of various reasons, this is a great time to do something that doesn't take up much time.

**Anything goes...** vocalists (solo or group), instrumentalists (solo or group), classical or contemporary, you are all welcome.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex where you can write your name on a specific Sunday for music.

If you have any questions, please let me know!

**"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.**

**Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to Him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

**Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy!"**

**~Psalm 33:1-3**



## 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

WORSHIP PLANS FOR JUNE

**Sunday, June 7**  
Trinity Sunday  
Celebration of Holy Communion  
Mark 1:21-28  
*Love Unbolts the Dark*  
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

**Sunday, June 14**  
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 6:7-13  
*How to Begin Our Prayers*  
The Rev. Dr. John E. Mehl, preaching

**Sunday, June 21**  
Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Luke 15:11-32  
*The Deepest Search*  
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

**Sunday, June 28**  
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Mark 5:21-43  
*Stopping on the Way*  
The Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, preaching

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR



COMMUNION SERVERS

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Ben Holdsworth    | Chuck Prine   |
| Jackie Holdsworth | Dan Zabo      |
| Betsy Prine       | Margaret Zabo |

GREETERS

|                |              |                 |                |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>June 7</b>  | Jim McAnulty | Joan McAnulty   | Betty Ewing    |
| <b>June 14</b> | Jean Miewald | Lee Ferrero     | Lynne Wohleber |
| <b>June 21</b> | Anne Mitchel | Gordon Mitchell | Joan Zakor     |
| <b>June 28</b> | Jim Burke    | Bev Burke       | Dawn Kane      |

USHERS

Steve Boisvert, Debbie Boisvert, Bob Bridges, Chuck Laufer, Mary Laufer, Bob Winnett

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

70 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH  
GROWING TOGETHER  
IN FAITH, REASON, LOVE & SERVICE

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Some ideas:  
Tea  
Chocolate  
Soap  
Spices  
Baking needs  
Nails and hardware

Give Jessica a Good Pounding!  
Jessica Baier, BHCC Music Director,  
has recently moved into her first apartment!  
In order to get her ladder fully stocked,  
the office is holding a Pounding.  
During the month of June, the office will take your gift  
of a pound of ANYTHING useful for Jessica.

**OUR CHURCH STAFF**

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

Rev. Laurie Sponaugle, Pastor  
la@bhccml.com

Rev. Grafton Eliason, Company of Pastors

Rev. John Yohe, Company of Pastors

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

Dan Getkin, Youth Director  
da@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.