

BOWER HILL NEWS



Dear Friends,

Reassurance abounds in the Prophet's words. There is comfort to be found in Isaiah, particularly the passages known as Second Isaiah, which are found in chapters 40-66. These profoundly significant sections *present a moving vision of the assured hope of God's people in a world whose times are in God's hands.* It is precisely the same hope – of like texture and identical fiber – that abounds here these days at Bower Hill Community Church.

Consider Isaiah 58:11:

*And the Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your desire with good things,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters fail not.*

Throughout his writings, the Prophet Isaiah carefully chooses his metaphors, and one of his most choice images establishes God's people as God's pleasant plantings in God's pleasant Garden. Envision then, if you will, Bower Hill Community Church as God's Garden of Love: a place where God's love prospers and grows as we *share our bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into our house, when we see the naked, and cover them.* Such imagery rises up in direct contrast to William Blake's oppressive experience, and God's divine edict of compassion flies in the face of rigid religiosity:

*I went to the Garden of Love,
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the midst,
Where I used to play on the green*

*And the gates of this Chapel were shut,
And "Thou shalt not" writ over the door;
So I turn'd to the Garden of Love
That so many sweet flowers bore;*

*And I saw it was filled with graves,
And tomb-stones where flowers should be;
And Priests in black gowns were making their rounds,
And binding with briars my joys and desires.*

Our Pastor Nominating Committee is working with indefatigable assiduity to present to you a pastor who, in my own words, will recognize this congregation as one that serves God in a Garden of Love, a pastor that affirms each individual as one of God's pleasant plantings, a pastor who refuses to bind with briars your joys and desires but, rather, will encourage the Lord to guide you continually, to satisfy your desire with good things, to make your bones strong, so that you shall be like a watered garden, a Garden of Love where the gates of the Chapel are wide open, where God's love grows as our deeds of love and mercy abound.

Yours in Christ, faithfully and gratefully,
Calvin C. Wilson

AUGUST 2009

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COMMUNITY NOTES

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.

Aug. 18: *The Little Toy Soldier* by Cal Wilson
Hostess: Betsy Prine

Sept. 15: *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich
Hostess: Lee Ferrero

**BIBLES NEEDED**

While not a "Presbyterian" church, the Protestant community inside the walls of the state prison has an ongoing need for Bibles. They function as a reception center for the Western part of the state which means all parole violators or inmates sentenced to state time from Western PA come through their doors. Due to concerns about contraband, the inmates are not permitted to bring any books, including Bibles. Therefore, a large number of the 60-80 men who enter each week ask for a copy of a Bible and they often run out. They are asking churches in the presbytery to provide old Bibles to be given to men who have a hunger for God's Word. To view the details go to http://www.pghpresbytery.org/congregations/get_connected.htm

SIGNER NEEDED

The Think Tank has come up with some ideas on how to reach more people in our community and hopefully bring them into the worship services. One of the ideas they are working on is having aids for the deaf. For this program to be effective, we need someone who knows sign language and is willing to use it in our services. If you or someone you know are able to help us, please contact the church office.

KNOWING THE ROPES: FROM THE W&M COMMITTEE

For about a year, you may have noticed that the last six pews in the back of the sanctuary have been roped off. There was an article about this practice in a previous newsletter, but because of some inquiries, we decided to revisit this issue. We believe that having the congregation seated more towards the front of the sanctuary helps people to hear better and permits the minister to see more of the congregation as he/she preaches. So for the time being, the ropes will remain. We are hopeful that the congregation will begin to grow to such an extent that all the pews will be needed, and the ropes will then be removed.

UPDATE FROM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Since our last report, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has begun to conduct face-to-face interviews with prospective candidates where the questions are more inquiring and thoughtful. Members of the committee have also continued to visit churches to hear and see the preaching style of other candidates. In addition, we have had a meeting

with Cal to reinforce our criteria for choosing the next BHCC pastor. A meeting with the Think Tank is scheduled to be sure the plans and purpose of the groups are in sync. The committee continues to request your prayers and welcomes your questions or comments on the process.

BRAILLE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

"Introduction to Braille" will be presented Tuesday, September 15, at 1:30 p.m. at BHCC for volunteers interested in learning Braille transcription. Volunteers are needed to Braille literary books, textbooks, and other printed material for the visually impaired. Lessons and material are free. For more information or to register for classes (required), contact Priscilla Getty at 412-531-1883.

CAMPBELL'S LABELS & THE HOPI MISSION

Bower Hill received a thank you from the Hopi Mission School for our donation of Campbell's labels to their points drive. These accumulated points can result in the Mission School being able to

"purchase" things like vans (a van is 1,600,000 labels and the Mission currently has roughly 808,210). Labels are being collected at Bower Hill in a large brown envelope on the table outside of the office window. The label MUST include both the UPC code and the picture or icon printed next to it (of a Campbell's kid in a mortar board) in order to count for the Mission School's purposes.

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, August 9th, 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.

COMMUNITY NOTES

FAITH IN ACTION—STARTER KITCHEN SETS



On October 4th we will be celebrating our second "Faith in Action" day at Bower Hill Community Church. One of our projects will be to put together "starter kitchen sets" for the Light of Life Rescue Mission. One of their many important programs is a ministry to previously addicted or abused homeless women. These women and their families are moved into an apartment and given a fresh start on life. Often, however, they lack all of the common household items necessary to take care of their homes and families. This is where we can help!

We will be putting together baskets with the following items:

Pots and pans	Mixing bowls
Measuring spoons and cups	Dishes and drinking glasses
Silverware and serving utensils	Dish soap, sponges, and kitchen towels
New or gently used cook books	Salt and pepper and other common spices

If you would like to help by either purchasing or giving gently used items from the list, we would be most grateful. Also, please help to spread the word to friends and neighbors so that we can make this a community-wide collection. According to Light of Life, the need is great and these kits are given out as quickly as they are collected.

FROM YOUR MUSIC DIRECTOR



My grandmother called me at the end of May, when she had received the Bower Hill's June newsletter. She asked if I had read it yet, and I stated I had not. She then replied, "Well... you should read it." When I saw the back cover of the newsletter about the announcement that I had moved into my first apartment and asking for pounds of things for my pantry, I was speechless. There are no words to state how grateful I am for all of the items I received, from spaghetti sauce and spices to dish soap and nails. I am so very thankful for the people of this church; it is the first place in a very long time that I have felt I belong. This family of faith has helped me to grow in my journey with Christ and has furthered my experience in music—I never thought that imaginable.

MUSIC NOTES

There are a lot of things that I am looking forward to in the fall months! The Friends of Music Committee has been reinstated, our main goal being to coordinate and oversee the Bower Hill Community Church Concert Series. Instead of late Sunday afternoon concerts, we will be inviting you to a lunch at noon on Sunday, following Adult Education. The concerts themselves will be at 1 p.m. The performers and their concert dates will be announced soon.



Keep your eyes peeled for some new (and some old!) faces on Sunday.

Bower Hill extends a warm welcome to new member Melissa (Missy) Kerner and also celebrates the return of her husband Adam Kerner.

Joining the Kerners in membership are the Williams family. Kim and Eric are parents to daughter Isabella and son Brandon.



BHCC celebrates the baptism of the following children:

DELANEY GRACE MCDONOUGH
Daughter of Jen and Mike McDonough
05-17-09

ISABELLA LEIGH WILLIAMS
Daughter of Kim and Eric Williams
06-28-09

OWEN THOMAS GEIS
Son of DJ and Sherri Geis
07-12-09

WORSHIP PLANS FOR AUGUST

August 2: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:1-17; Matthew 14:14-21

Wonder Bread and Miracle Whip

The Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason, preaching

August 9: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 40:27-31

Imagine That! – An Eagle in the Sky

The Rev. Calvin Coolidge Wilson, preaching

August 16: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Acts 27:13-25

Imagine That! – A Ship on the Sea

The Rev. Calvin Coolidge Wilson, preaching

August 23: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Acts 16:11-24

Imagine That! – A Man with a Maiden

The Rev. Calvin Coolidge Wilson, preaching

August 30: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 6:5-15

How Is Your Prayer Life?

The Rev. John Yohe, preaching

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN AUGUST

Communion in August will be served by intinction.

GREETERS

Aug. 2: Bill Cadwell, Marian Brannan, Lucille Heckman

Aug. 9: Kurt Kerner, Donna Williams, Graham Knox

Aug. 16: Steve Boisvert, Debbie Boisvert, Carol Knox

Aug. 23: Bev Burke, Jim Burke, Keith Mason

Aug. 30: Jim McAnulty, Joan McAnulty, Betty Ewing

USHERS

Steve and Debbie Boisvert

Bob Bridges

Chuck and Mary Laufer

Bob Winnett

WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

The church staff has planned the church's worship schedule for the next five months, which includes who is preaching on each of the Sundays as well as who is participating in each of the worship services.

This information is available on page 5 of this newsletter.

Joan Zakor is selecting Lay Lectors, and those names will be available by the beginning of August.

If a new pastor is elected prior to the end of this calendar year, the preaching schedule will be altered accordingly.



**Worship Schedule
Bower Hill Community Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

August - December 2009

Date	Preacher	Event/s	Participants
August 2: 18 th Sun in Ord. Time	Grafton Eliason	Communion	Dan Getkin
August 9: 19 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson		Dan Getkin
August 16: 20 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson		John Yohe, Dan Getkin
August 23: 21 st Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson		Lay Lector
August 30: 22 nd Sun in Ord Time	John Yohe		Cal Wilson, Lay Lector
September 6: 23 rd Sun in Ord Time	Grafton Eliason	Communion	Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
September 13: 24 th Sun in Ord Time	Bart Campolo	Kick-off Sunday	Cal Wilson, Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
September 20: 25 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson	Faith in Action Focus	Grafton Eliason, John Yohe, Lay Lector
September 27: 26 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson	Faith in Action Focus	Grafton Eliason , John Yohe, Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
October 4: 27 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson	Faith in Action Sunday World Communion	Grafton Eliason Lay Lectors at tables
October 11: 28 th Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson		Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
October 18: 29 th Sun in Ord Time	John Yohe		Grafton Eliason, Lay Lector
October 25: 30 th Sun in Ord Time Reformation Sunday	Calvin Wilson		Grafton Eliason, John Yohe Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
November 1: All Saints' Day	Calvin Wilson	Communion Necrology	John Yohe, Lay Lector
November 8: 32 nd Sun in Ord Time	Calvin Wilson		Grafton Eliason, Dan Getkin Lay Lector
November 15: 33 rd Sun in Ord Time	Grafton Eliason		Cal Wilson, Lay Lector
November 22: Christ the King Sunday Thanksgiving Sunday	Calvin Wilson		John Yohe, Lay Lector
November 29: 1 st Sunday of Advent	Dan Getkin	1 st Advent Candle	Cal Wilson, John Yohe, Lay Lector
December 6: 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Calvin Wilson	Communion 2 nd Advent Candle	Grafton Eliason, Dan Getkin, Lay Lector
December 13: 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Grafton Eliason	3 rd Advent Candle	Cal Wilson, Lay Lector
December 20: 4 th Sunday of Advent	Calvin Wilson	4 th Advent Candle	John Yohe, Lay Lector
December 24: Christmas Eve	Calvin Wilson	Special Service	
December 27 1 st Sunday after Christmas	Calvin Wilson		John Yohe, Lay Lector

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, Interim Pastor
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The Rev. Grafton Eliason, Company of Pastors

The Rev. John Yohe, Company of Pastors

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries
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Dan Getkin, Youth Director
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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
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Emily Kerr, Secretary
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Michael Bergen, Custodian

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

CARE LIST

Margie 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

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Truman Kohman, 1300 Bower Hill Road, Apt. #1430, Pittsburgh, PA 15243



IN LOVING MEMORY

Rolland Beatty

05-22-1925

to

06-22-2009