

# BOWER HILL NEWS



Dear Friends,

As surely as night follows day and every dawn breaks forth into the dark, season follows season; and we enter now anew into a many-splendored autumnal realm of lush foliage on stately trees, of crimsons and golds and reds and yellows against an azure sky, of the intoxicating aromas of burning leaves in a pyramidal pyre. Another Autumn.

More than any other season, Autumn excites the inevitable *deja vu*, arouses the fleeting nostalgia that transports us back to the mesmerizing days of yore, recreates our yearning for a former warmth, a previous joy, a prior hearth. Another Autumn. In all the circling years, we have been there before. In this circling year, we want to be there again.

At the risk of appearing frivolous, I ask you to remember that one of the events that recurs at this time every year—and has for decades now—is the unabashed posture Linus assumes every Halloween in the pumpkin patch, waiting expectantly for the Great Pumpkin. Every year he chooses the most sincere pumpkin patch and writes a letter to the Great Pumpkin: “Dear Great Pumpkin, I’m looking forward to your arrival on Halloween night. I hope you bring me lots of presents.” All of the Peanuts gang think Linus is crazy. Charlie Brown’s sister Sally, however, has a fascination with the Great Pumpkin and forfeits Tricks and Treats as well as Violet’s Halloween Party in order to wait with Linus for the Great Pumpkin. As you recall, the Great Pumpkin never comes.

While it seems obvious that the Great Pumpkin has its parallel and forerunner in Santa Claus, it may be that the parallel is much too obvious. Some theologians would find the essential meaning of Linus’ waiting as being representative of our waiting for the Messiah, that is, our waiting for God to come to us in his Christ. The recurring Great Pumpkin episode sounds a note of familiarity with Samuel Becket’s *Waiting for Godot* (Waiting for God). Godot never comes; yet the main characters are always expectant.

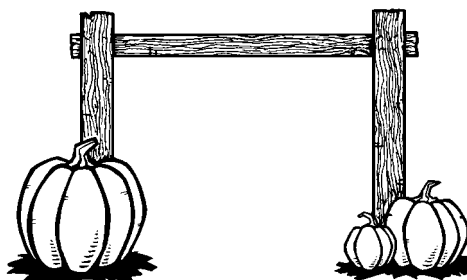
Given our identity as Christians, we can safely say that we are forever seeking an encounter with God, much like the psalmist of old: *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.* (Psalm 42:1-2) In direct contrast to the Great Pumpkin and to Godot, however, God is the God of action, who actually comes to us, encounters us, reveals himself to us, redeems us, restores us, and offers us abundant life.

May God intersect with us in our particular pumpkin patch. As he is the God of action, may he inspire us to put our faith into action. May he use us to lighten the dark corners of the community where we live. Were we given the honor of serving Christ as instruments of his peace, *no richer gift could Autumn pour out from her lavish horn.* \*

Yours in Christ, faithfully and gratefully,

Calvin C. Wilson

\* James Greenleaf Whittier, *The Corn-song*, stanza 1



OCTOBER  
2009



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## COMMUNITY NOTES

### UPDATE FROM PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The process of discernment of God's will for a new pastor for Bower Hill is not always easy. "The Lord does not look at the things that man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7) It is with disappointment that the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) reports that neither of the previous two candidates about whom we told you last month will be coming to BHCC as our new pastor. After hearing one preach at a neutral pulpit, the PNC decided that person was not a fit. The other whom we all chose as the right person for the job, decided that they were not being called to BHCC. It takes both parties to make a match.

So, that puts us back into the search process. With the help of Presbytery and Doug Portz, our Presbytery advisor, the committee is beginning the review of new PIFs (Pastor Information Forms) and self-referrals. There are lots of good prospects out there. The committee believes the Lord will guide us in the process, and help us to discern the person he has chosen to be the next pastor of Bower Hill church.

Please keep the committee in your prayers.

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **October 11**, 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.

### FLEA MARKET COLLECTION NEWS

New in 2009: in addition to the usual items we will also be taking books. We still ask for no clothes or large furniture. All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday after worship. If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

Watch for more information on opportunities to help price (and get first crack at all merchandise), and get ready for the 2009 flea market. If you have any questions, please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.



### 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.

**October:** *Olive Kitteridge*  
by Elizabeth Strout  
Hostess: Betsy Hohlfelder

**November:** TBA

**December:** No meeting

**January:** *The Help*  
by Kathryn Stockett  
Hostess: TBA

### FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION

Highlights from the Session meeting of August 24, 2009:

- Elder Foltz reported that bids are being obtained for window and dishwasher repairs, and that expert assistance has been solicited regarding maintenance of the Memorial Garden.
- Elder Susan Hicks reported that Vacation Bible School was a real success, with 24 teen and adult volunteers providing activities and projects to 21 children attending the school. Our new elementary Sunday School curriculum (Rock Solid) has been purchased and provided to the teachers.
- Elder Alan Hohlfelder called attention to the Produce to People food distribution being conducted in conjunction with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. BHCC needs five to seven volunteers to distribute food the third Saturday of each month at MLK School on the North Side.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

## SCOUTING AT BHCC

***Stephanie Rogan leads both Girl Scout Troops that meet at Bower Hill and offers the following update:***

Greetings from Girl Scout Troop 1613, now twelve 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Junior Girl Scouts plus one 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Daisy Girl Scout, and Girl Scout Troop 1775, now four 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Cadettes! Both Troops are very thankful to the Bower Hill Community Church for providing meeting space over the past six years.

These Troops are beginning their fifth and eighth years, respectively, in the Scout program and have recently bridged up to their current levels. They have been busy learning new skills and going on new adventures such as horseback riding, camping, backpacking and caving. The girls are very serious about their Girl Scout program and your support helps make their program happen. On behalf of these Girl Scouts, their leaders and families, a very big thank you to all members of BHCC for welcoming and hosting the girls over these many years.

***Boy Scout Troop 28 meets every Tuesday evening at BHCC and is led by Scoutmaster Mike Fuson.***

The Troop recently welcomed two more Scouts to the rank of Eagle.

- Sean Staltari, who rebuilt a trail in Bird Park for his Eagle Project.
- Michael Petrarulo, who built a meditation Garden at St Paul Seminary in Greentree.

Troop 28 Scouts participated in many trips and service projects in the last programming year. From ski weekends to service trips, the boys have been very busy. Of particular note was the Spring COPE-o-ree at Camp Guyasuta, which was hosted by Troop 28. Focused on an outdoor climbing course, this event included nearly every troop and crew from the Conestoga and Mon Valley Districts. Scouts participated in games that challenged their mind and body on a low ropes course, and also climbed and rappelled down the climbing tower and the zip line in the high ropes course.

Many thanks to BHCC for providing an opportunity for the Troop to meet and continue their good works.

## THE NEWEST PUMPKIN IN THE PATCH...

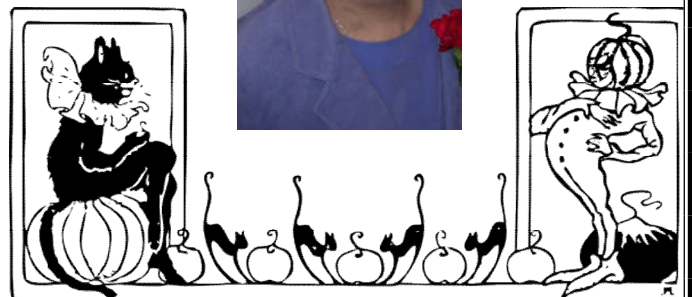
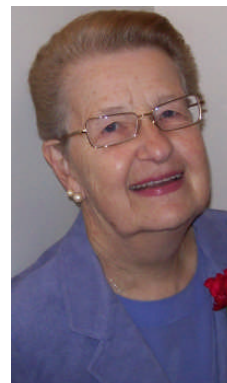
Christopher James Bruder,  
Son of Kirsten and Brian Bruder,  
was baptized at Bower Hill Community  
Church on September 13, 2009.

We welcome Christopher  
into our family of faith!



# Welcome

NEW MEMBER PATRICIA A. HANSEN



# October

### Sunday, October 4

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Faith in Action Sunday

World Communion at Tables

### Sunday, October 11

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Faith in Action Focus: *Integration*

Featuring Slides, Videos, and Testimonies

Ephesians 6:10-20

Brief Meditation:

*Suiting Action to the Word*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### Sunday, October 18

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 10:35-45

*The Complete Sacrifice*

The Rev. John Yohe, preaching

### Sunday, October 25

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Reformation Sunday

Romans 1:16-23

*The Rage of Denial*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN OCTOBER

Communion in October  
will be served at the Faith in Action Luncheon

### GREETERS

Oct. 4: Bill and Nancy Andrews, Nancy Criswell

Oct. 11: Jim and Bev Burke, Judy Delestienne

Oct. 18: Glenn, Sally and Theresa Child

Oct. 25: George and Eleanora Freas, Chan Ketchum

### USHERS

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

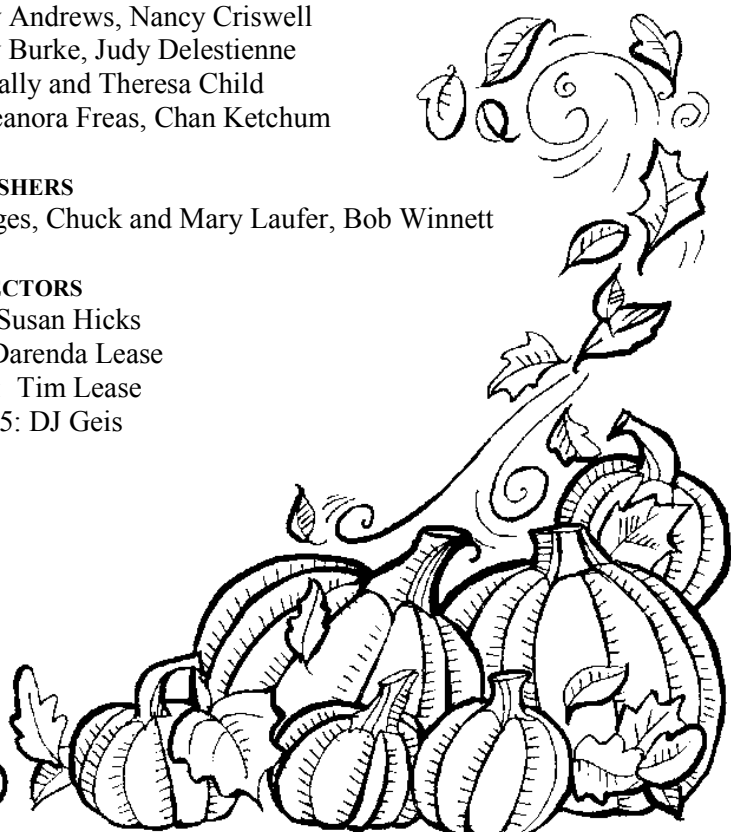
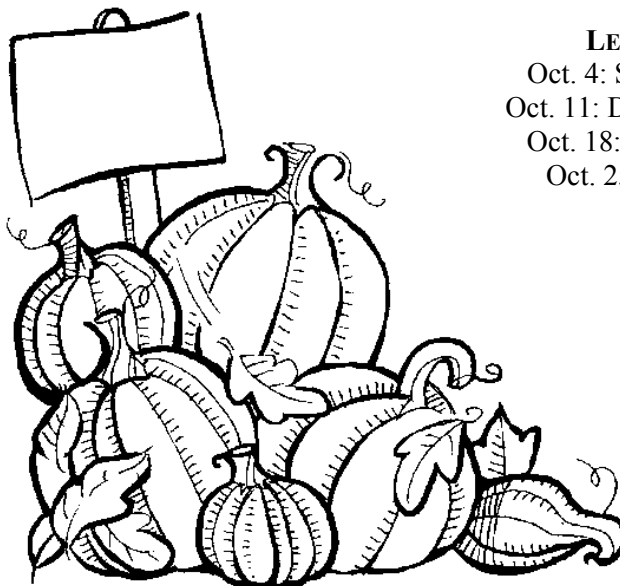
### LECTORS

Oct. 4: Susan Hicks

Oct. 11: Darendra Lease

Oct. 18: Tim Lease

Oct. 25: DJ Geis



## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

On September 6, we sang a communion hymn entitled, "Come, Risen Lord" (tune, Sursum Corda, Smith). I had never heard this hymn before, and in reading the words and playing the music, this quickly became my new favorite communion hymn. The words were written by George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959), who was an English hymn writer and an Anglican Clergyman. In 1931, while he was a Canon of Leicester Cathedral in England, he wrote these words. As we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 4, we should remember that, as one body as the Church of Christ, we are the Lord's guests at His feast, "with all Thy saints on earth and saints at rest."



*Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest; nay, let us be Thy guests; the feast is Thine;  
Thyself at Thine own board make manifest in Thine own sacrament of bread and wine.*

*We meet, as in that upper room they met, Thou at the table, blessing, yet dost stand;  
"This is My body"; so Thou givest yet: Faith still receives the cup as from Thy hand.*

*One body we, one body who partake, one church united in communion blest;  
One name we bear, one bread of life we break, with all Thy saints on earth and saints at rest.*

## ADULT EDUCATION IN OCTOBER

### FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH THEME LEADS TO JOHN CALVIN STUDY IN OCTOBER ADULT EDUCATION

Presbyterians and other Reformed Protestant Churches around the world are celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John Calvin's birth this year. Bower Hill Church Adult Education will feature three presentations on Calvin, the man, his times, and his legacy on successive Sundays, October 11, 18 and 25. (There is no adult education on October 4 due to Faith in Action Day programs.)

Why devote three programs to a subject as old as Calvin? The Adult Education Committee this year hopes to link the Church's present and future with its foundations. Calvin, about two decades after Luther's break with the Roman Catholic Church, founded the Reformed Tradition in Geneva, Switzerland. He was Protestantism's first systematic theologian. While his critics claim that his theocratic regime in Geneva was autocratic, his supporters observe that he introduced participation of the laity in church affairs, possibly laying the foundations of representative government in the political realm.

John Knox established the Presbyterian Church and led the rebellion against Mary, Queen of Scots, in Edinburgh after studying with Calvin in Geneva.

Adult Education classes are held in the Library at 10:45 AM or 15 minutes after the close of worship. Elder Dave Green is chair of Adult Education. Phone: 412 531 22051; email: davegreenpgh@aol.com



# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

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Pittsburgh, Pa 15243

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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, Interim Pastor  
[ca@bhccml.com](mailto:ca@bhccml.com)

The Rev. Grafton Eliason, Company of Pastors

The Rev. John Yohe, Company of Pastors

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries  
[je@bhccml.com](mailto:je@bhccml.com)

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[da@bhccml.com](mailto:da@bhccml.com)

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary  
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Emily Kerr, Secretary  
[em@bhccml.com](mailto:em@bhccml.com)

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 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

Longtime member  
Harry Dunfee  
died September 16, 2009.

Our deepest prayers  
and sympathies  
are with his family  
at this time.