

BOWER HILL NEWS

Pastor's Thanksgiving Message



Dear Friends,

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord,
all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!*
(Psalm 100:1-2)

Even to this day, nearly four centuries later, there lies deep within the recesses of our hearts a warm place for the *Mayflower*. If there is a Thanksgiving nostalgia lodged in our essence as a pilgrim people, it grows out of the image of that majestic ship, which deposited our Pilgrim ancestors on the shores of Plymouth, Massachusetts in November 1620. At that time of year, the air undoubtedly carried a bitter chill, the ground was probably covered with snow, and the disconcerting presentiment of a bleak winter loomed as stark as the leafless landscape. While the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving in 1621 was a bountiful feast, the subsequent months moved the settlers toward a stark state imbued with the somber threat of starvation.

Out of this starkness grew an equally stark New England tradition—one to be observed for years to come—in which it was customary at Thanksgiving to place five kernels of corn at every plate as a reminder of the first winter, when only seven healthy colonists nursed the sick, and nearly half their number lay in the windswept graveyard on a nearby hill . . . when the food supply was so depleted that only five small kernels of corn were rationed to each individual at a time. Succeeding generations wanted their children to remember the suffering that made possible the settlement of a free people in a free land. It commemorated the hard life of tough, resilient pioneers of faith, who—in spite of the stark winter and the ravages of starvation—remained to form the Plymouth Colony. Sailors alone were aboard the *Mayflower* when it sailed back to England in April 1621.

For the dauntless courage of our Pilgrim forebears, for religious freedom on the soil of a free land, and for the national freedoms we foster and savor today, we lift our voices to a great God of Providence:

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name!
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever;
And his faithfulness to all generations.*
(Psalm 100:4-5)

Yours in Christ, faithfully and gratefully,

Calvin Coolidge Wilson

NOVEMBER
2009

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COMMUNITY NOTES

FALL CONCERT SERIES



The Bower Hill Community Church Fall Concert Series, sponsored by the Friends of Music Committee, continues this November.

Lunch will again be offered by the Committee at 12 p.m. followed by the concert at 1 p.m. This month's musical guest is guitarist Mark Marston.

Marston will perform a program spanning the entire history of the guitar, including early Renaissance music for the vihuela, music by J.S. Bach, and also by the great classical guitar composers Giuliani and Sor. The program will include contemporary music, and solo guitar arrangements of sacred music.

Mark Marston received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Duquesne University. He regularly appears across the country as a performer and clinician, has served on the board of directors for guitar societies in Pittsburgh and Chicago, and is the guitar faculty for the Center for Young Musicians.

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST TO MOVE TO WEDNESDAY



Beginning Wednesday, November 4th, senior men's breakfast switches from the first Tuesday to the first Wednesday of each month. The group, usually about six to ten men, gathers at 8 a.m. at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike, near the end of Green Tree Road in Scott. There is no agenda other than good fellowship and interesting conversation. No invitation or reservation is needed. We meet in the room to the left of the cashier. Questions? Call Dave Green at 412-531-2205.

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.



- November:** Magazine selection, please see the office for a copy
- December:** No meeting
- January:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett
Hostess: TBA

LAST CALL FOR FLEA MARKET ITEMS

Please bring any donations for the flea market to the church by Sunday November 15th.

Please do not include 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.

The Flea Market will be held Saturday, November 21st from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

New in 2009: We're taking books!

FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED



There will be lots of opportunities to help out with the set up of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale.

Here's what's happening:

- **Nov. 18th, 7:00 p.m.--Bringing Down the Boxes**
We'll bring the boxes down from the loft to Fellowship Hall.
- **Nov. 19th, 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.-Unpacking Boxes**
Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a work out. We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all. Snacks will be provided, but if you're planning on staying all day you may want to bring a bagged lunch.
- **Friday Nov. 20th, 9:00 a.m.-?**
Typically we get most of the unpacking done on Thursday, so Friday will probably be an early day.
- **Nov. 21st, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.-Sale Day**
The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m. and we usually have some shoppers arriving early. We'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

DON'T FORGET FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!

If you have any questions, call Theresa Child at 412-429-9519.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

HEKIMA PLACE BENEFIT DINNER



Benefit Dinner

Hekima Place is having a fund raising dinner on Saturday, November 7th from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the St. Thomas More Parish Center, across from South Hills Village. Dinner will include an appetizer, pesto and meat lasagna, salad and dessert. Cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Tickets can be purchased from Betsy or Alan Hohlfelder. All proceeds will go towards the construction of new residences for the girls on property recently purchased in Kenya. Please help BHCC have a great turnout at this event.

PRODUCE TO THE PEOPLE



Produce to People, a joint effort of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, has fed a total of 600 + families in the two months since we commenced our partnership in August 2009. Every third Saturday (with the exception of dates in November and December, which will occur on the second Saturday) from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12 noon, various congregations work together in the North Side to distribute food to those most at risk and in need. We seek to build community and provide a cheerful, nurturing and respectful environment. Our goal is to provide healthy produce and grocery items to feed and nurture families.

December 2009 will mark the first time that BHCC is the coordinating congregation for the distribution. We will help manage the distribution, gather and report statistics and provide feedback to the food bank. Due to the Christmas holiday, the December distribution will occur on December 12, the second Saturday. Additional volunteers are needed to assist in this worthwhile effort. We invite you to join us for a morning of service, ministry and fun. A listing for service dates is located in the Narthex. Carpooling is also available.

Please see Keith Mason, Jean Miewald or Alan Hohlfelder if you have any questions. Thank you.

MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATES



This fall look for improvements to our Memorial Garden. The overgrown hemlocks have been removed. Liz Frattare, owner of Rooted in Thyme, and Cory Polena are helping with the selection and placement of the new plantings.

A serviceberry tree will be featured on the left as you enter the garden. The history of the tree makes it an appropriate addition. The plant is often called sarvis or sarvisberry. This pronunciation is commonly thought to derive from the season in the mountains when the springtime thaw made it possible for traveling preachers to reach their communities in the hills. In some places, frozen ground prevented the burial of those who had died in the winter. As soon as possible in the spring, the bodies were properly buried. The women gathered the tree's blooms for the services.

You will find additional slow growing, low-maintenance plantings too. These improvements are not part of the church budget. If you would like to contribute financially to the efforts please write "Memorial Garden" on the memo line of your check made out to BHCC.

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **November 8th**, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry.



This is a critical time of the year for food banks and pantries. High-protein foods like peanut butter and tuna, baby items of all types (diapers, formula, food) and whole grain cereals and oatmeal are always deeply appreciated.

WORSHIP PLANS & VOLUNTEERS



Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Day
Holy Communion
I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Hebrews 12:1-11
Empty Chairs and Empty Tables
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, November 8

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
I Corinthians 13
An Ever-fixed Mark
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Sunday, November 15

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Stewardship Sunday
Genesis 1:24-31; John 13:1-7
Home
The Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason, preaching

Sunday, November 22

Thanksgiving Sunday
Luke 17:11-19
One Came Back
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Tuesday, November 24

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Temple Emmanuel
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday in Advent
Luke 21:34-36
Being on Guard
Daniel T. Getkin, preaching

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN NOVEMBER

COMMUNION SERVERS

Dave and Nancy Green, Jim and Joan McAnulty,
Anne and Gordon Mitchell

GREETERS

Nov. 1: DJ and Sherri Geis, Beth Gardner
Nov. 8: Dennis and Nancy Geis, Cynthia Gissin
Nov. 10: Dave and Nancy Green, Mary Good
Nov. 22: Jean Grabow, Lynn Foltz and Dick Rothrock

USHERS

Marian Brannan, Jim Corbett, Lucille Heckman,
Earl Kennedy, Bill Ramsey

LECTORS

Nov. 1: Abby Waive
Nov. 8: Jaime Lease
Nov. 15: Mary Beth Waive
Nov. 22: Cynthia Gissin
Nov. 29: Kirsten Bruder

*An Abundance
of Thanks*



MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



On November 1, All Saints' Sunday, the Handbell Choir will be playing during Worship. Our anthem is called "Celtic Farewell," written by Linda R. Lamb. It is a piece of thanksgiving and remembrance, based on Philippians 1:3:

"I thank my God every time I remember you.."

On All Saints' Sunday, the music will honor those who have gone before us. We will sing two of my favorite hymns, "The Strife is O'er," and "For all the Saints." Honoring those who have gone before us helps define who we are and what we are about. It lets us know that the things we accomplish are the results of team effort, even though many team members have gone on to heaven. Whatever we will be in the future, it will be built on what we are now. We have been entrusted with a call and with a heritage (Terry York).

The Chancel Choir's anthem is entitled "For the Saints," written by Jennifer G. Klein and David Angerman. I think it represents all that we are celebrating on All Saints' Sunday—celebrating Holy Communion, and celebrating the saints who have gone before us.

***For the saints who've gone before,
who from their labors rest,
We give thanks to You, O Lord, for lives of faithfulness.
They have found their resting place beside the living stream
Where they gaze upon the face of our Redeemer King.
You, the gentle Shepherd, hold each within Your care,
And the saints all feast at the table You prepare.***

***We remember those who died, who now before Your throne
Kneel to You, our loving guide,
whose grace has called them home.
We in sorrow yearn for those we loved who now are gone.
Fill us with Your sweet repose until we join as one.
Turn our mourning into song; our grieving, Lord, release.
For we know it won't be long; we'll meet the saints in Peace.***

***We rejoice with saints of old who won the well-fought fight.
Now Your glory they behold, Your kingdom and Your light.
Alleluia!!***

ADULT EDUCATION IN NOVEMBER

ADULT EDUCATION TO EXPLORE ORIGINS OF THE BIBLE; PRESBYTERY MISSION AND HUNGER

November adult education programs will continue to explore the foundations of our faith and its mission imperatives. Classes on Sundays Nov. 1 and 8 will be led by The Rev. James Davidson, director of continuing education and special events at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. His presentation title is "Why is That Book in There? How We Got the Biblical Canon and Why it's Important in Today's Church."

On Sunday, Nov. 15, The Rev. Karen Battle, director of justices ministries and mission for the Pittsburgh Presbytery will discuss Presbytery mission. We asked her to discuss what Presbytery is doing to advance the cause of social justice, how our church's undesignated mission contributions are being used, and what are General Assembly's and synod's mission funding directions.

Bower Hill's Mission Committee will lead the adult education program on November 22 with emphasis on food and hunger.

Adult education meets in the library at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday unless otherwise announced. Typical attendance to 25 to 40. If you haven't tried adult education at Bower Hill, please know that you are welcome. You will find stimulating topics and mind-expanding discussions about the role of Christians and The Church in contemporary society.

Dave Green is chair of the adult education committee. Email: davegreenpgh@aol.com. Phone: 412-531-2205



OPERATIONAL UPDATES

PASTOR SEARCH CONTINUES WITH RENEWED ENERGY



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to interview prospective candidates, listen to sermons on either CD or a website. Since our continuation of the search began again we have reviewed 10 new PIF's, interviewed several prospects by phone and have scheduled 3 more phone interviews within the next several weeks.

The members of the group under consideration include men and women. They are all viable candidates, have good preaching skills, support mission projects, meet the theological parameters outlined in our Church Information Form and profess to love the Lord.

We have a renewed sense of commitment and are encouraged by continued support from the congregation and the Presbytery. We are striving to be more thorough in our questions and more diligent in our discussions with each new candidate to find the one that the Lord is directing to us.

The committee continues to request your prayers and welcomes your questions or comments on the process.



Clerk's Comments

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2009:

- New stairs have been constructed at the DART entrance and other concrete repairs have been made.
- Brochures for "Come Worship with Us" for the fall season have been completed and placed in the pews. New pew pads are being prepared because the present visitor's book is not useful for tracking repeat visits to the church.
- Jason Rising has agreed to serve as chair of the 2010 Stewardship Campaign.
- On September 19, BHCC members participated for the second time in the Produce to People food distribution in conjunction with the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. It is encouraging that the number of family units receiving food increased from 215 in the first distribution to 400 in the second distribution.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session



Look for your Stewardship bag
on Sunday, November 1st.

This year, your bag will have
not only your pledge card,
but envelopes and the church directory, too.

Your continued support
of Bower Hill Community Church
is appreciated.

Thank you!

FROM THE DESK OF DAN GETKIN

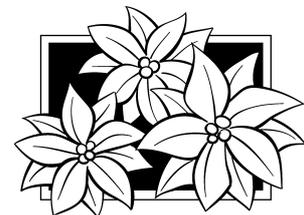


It has been a great fall with the youth so far! If you look at the schedules of our students, it can be hard to believe that we can ever find time to get together. It is wonderful to hear about the many activities with which our youth spend their time. The great number and great variance of their interests color our group with a wonderful and startling diversity. I enjoy hearing their individual voices raise in laughter and in debate just the same. Whether we are joined in discussion for Sunday school or joined in fellowship for youth group, I am regularly impressed by the depth of their thought and the abundance of their youthful joy.

In the past couple of months, we have shared meals together, watched movies together, and served the community together. Although sometimes there is a great challenge in coming up with activities that are fun, meaningful, and meet everyone's schedules, I take comfort in knowing that our group will make the best of whatever situation. I continually fall back on Jesus' promise that "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them". So whenever you see us in my office, or rushing out the door to our next activity, know that Christ is in the midst of us no matter what we are doing and where we are going.

Thank you for all that you do to facilitate and encourage this youth program. We are blessed to have you as partners in this journey.

CARTOON CORNER



POINSETTIAS

Watch the bulletin for order forms in November!

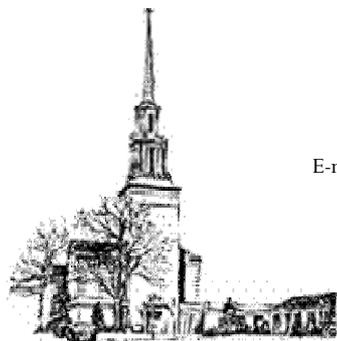
BHCC will once again offer poinsettias for sale in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Proceeds will benefit the Youth Work Trip.

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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The Rev. John Yohe, Company of Pastors

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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

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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

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 Retzer
died October 9, 2009.

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