

# BOWER HILL NEWS

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Not all silent nights are holy nights.

The silence is sometimes broken by *things that go bump in the night*, or disturbed by the anxious beating of our hearts. For many of us, silent nights are shrouded with loneliness, when we go to bed alone and wake up alone, all the time in between devoid of the warmth of a human embrace. At times the silence of nights all too closely resembles the everlasting silence beyond the grave, and *If I should die before I wake* comes restlessly to mind and then prayerfully to our lips. On occasions when the night terrors creep into the bedroom, *wicked dreams abuse the curtain'd sleep* as an afflicted conscience lies uneasily upon a tear-stained pillow. Meanwhile, out in the streets, dangers lurk in the shadows of the silent nights in our neighborhoods, and hunger attacks the sleepless homeless in the silent nights beneath the bridges of our cities.

Not all silent nights are holy nights.

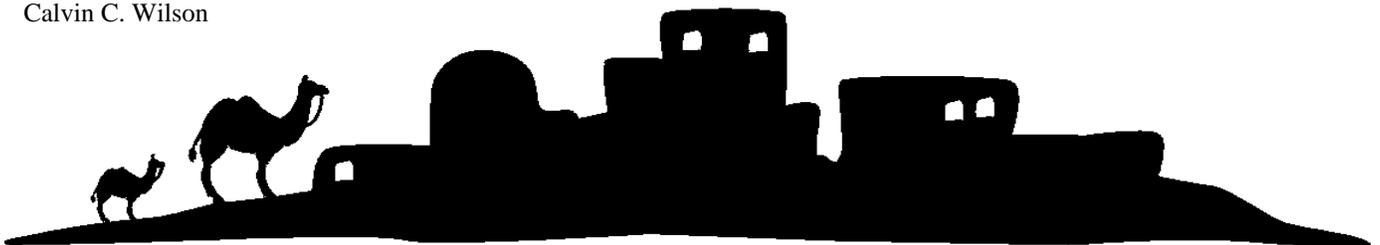
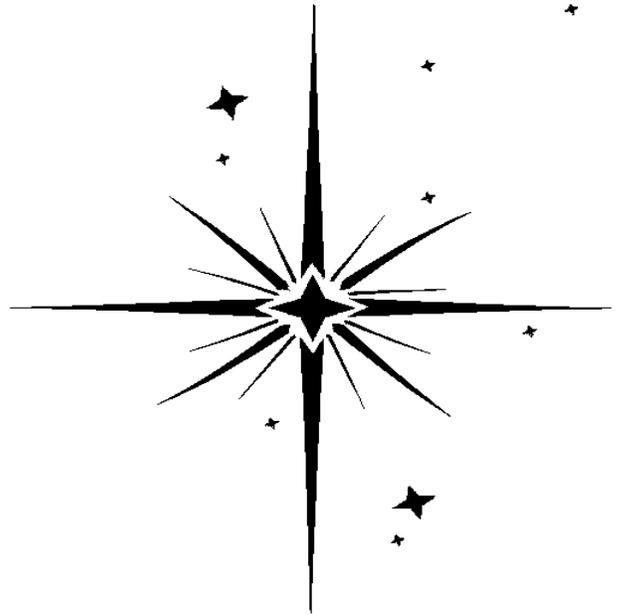
Long ago there occurred a silent night that was a holy night. . . in the little town of Bethlehem that lay so still beneath a brilliant star. And *back in a barn in a Bethlehem slum* the eternal, invisible God of all creation became human, visible, and embraceable: a Word wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger. Those who surrounded the luminous manger in that silent night—Mary and Joseph from Nazareth, shepherds from the fields, Magi from the East—beheld in the face of this Child the countenance of God; and it was a holy night. The transforming realization that God has come to earth—*Emmanuel: God with us*—dawned upon them, informing them that God is now nearer than breath and dearer than life; and it was a holy night. Into Bethlehem's *dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee, O Bethlehem, tonight.* It was a silent night that was also a holy night.

It is this silent night, holy night long ago that makes all other silent nights bearable, even holy: that fills our anxious hearts with courage, that wraps our lonely longings with a divine comfort, that gives us faith in the night and puts our fears of death to flight, that forgives our past and assuages our conscience, that inspires us to face the dangers of our neighborhoods and embrace the homeless of our cities.

During this holy season of Christmas, may all our silent nights be holy nights, in which we feel the Living Presence of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, in which our restless souls find peace in Him, in which we make real the peace of Christ for others.

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.*

Affectionately yours,  
Calvin C. Wilson



## COMMUNITY NOTES

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!



On Sunday, **December 13th**, 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.

### 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.



**December:** No meeting

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

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS-OPEN DATES FOR 2010

Have you ever noticed the beautiful flowers at the front of the church during the Sunday services? Some weeks they are live and other weeks they are silk. They are donated by different members of the church in honor or memory of loved ones. If the donor chooses live flowers, they are taken by the Deacons to members of the church who are sick, in the hospital or just in need of a pick-me-up. Or a donor may choose to make a donation to one of the organizations the church supports in lieu of live flowers, in which case the silk flowers are used. No matter which option a donor chooses, the cost is \$35. Most donate once a year; some try to donate close to a specific date or in a specific month while others don't mind contributing on different dates each year. If you would like to donate flowers in 2010, there are still three open slots. If you are looking for a specific date, the following dates are available (note-there are more dates listed than slots):

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>

May 9<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup>

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>

August 8<sup>th</sup>

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

December 5<sup>th</sup>

Contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519

[treetowon@yahoo.com](mailto:treetowon@yahoo.com).

### 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.

### PAGENT COSTUMES NEEDED

This year our children will participate in telling the Christmas Story at our Family Christmas Eve service. We are in need of animal costumes (or anything else you may have) for our little ones to wear as they become a part of our manger scene. If you have anything to offer, please call Susan Hicks at 412-833-7753 or email her at [susiebhicks@yahoo.com](mailto:susiebhicks@yahoo.com).

### LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY : SAVE THE DATE!



Join us to celebrate the season with the women of Bower Hill Church on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. at Mary Good's home at 909 Old Hickory Road, just a few short blocks from the church. Take a few hours during this busy month to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. If you are able, bring an hors d'oeuvre, drink or treat to share. If you would like to arrange for a ride, call Kathy Philson 412-531-7539. Hope to see you there! It's sure to be a festive evening for all!

### SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST

Senior men's breakfast meets at 8 a.m. every first Wednesday at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Green Tree Road in Scott. We had eight men at the gathering in November. 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.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

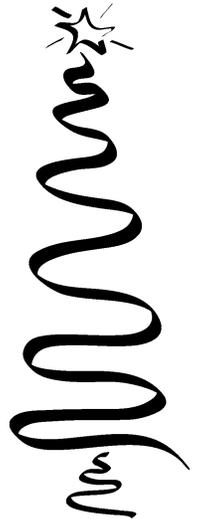


Once again this Christmas, members of Bower Hill will have the opportunity to share with those less fortunate or in need of encouragement through the tradition of our "Angel Trees." This year there are three options for giving.

Our first tree will feature red, white and blue stars and the gift items specified will be mailed to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are partnering with Operation Troop Appreciation, a non-profit organization located in Mount Lebanon that collects and sends items to our troops throughout the year. We will do the purchasing and collecting of gifts...they will do the mailing. The most popular gift ideas are current movie and TV DVD's, Music CD's, Large and XL tee shirts, and healthy snacks such as trail mix, granola bars, dried fruit, or beef jerky. If you are interested in participating, simply take a star from the tree, purchase the gift idea that is indicated, and return it to the church office or place it under the tree by December 27th.

Our second tree will feature gold angels and is for the benefit of the kids served by Lydia's Place. Did you know that on any given day there are 7000 children in Allegheny County with an incarcerated parent? Lydia's Place seeks to help incarcerated women and their children as they work to rebuild their lives by offering a variety of pre-release and post-release services. Our gifts will be given to these kids at Lydia's annual Holiday Party. To participate, select an angel from the tree, purchase the gift indicated, and return it **unwrapped** to the church office or beneath the tree **by Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**.

Our final tree will feature the beautiful girls from Hekima Place in Kenya. Kate Fletcher and her work in Africa have inspired many of us. Today, the boarding school she founded in 2005 houses over 50 girls who had been orphaned by HIV/AIDS are now living in a stable and loving environment and are getting a chance at an education. Donations are needed to help cover a variety of annual expenses and capital costs. For example, a \$10 donation will cover the cost of seeds to plant in the vegetable garden, \$20 will pay for a girl's school uniform, \$30 pays for a month of schooling and larger amounts can help pay for digging a new well or for building new residences for the girls. To participate, please select an ornament from the tree. Take it home, hang it on your tree and smile as you think of the gift that you are giving. Then, write a check payable to Bower Hill Community Church, indicate Hekima Place in the memo, and return it to the church by December 27th. The Mission and Outreach Committee will match the gifts that are given to Hekima Place this Christmas.



Thank you in advance for your generosity and sharing!

### HELP THE HOMELESS GET A JUMP ON WINTER



Once again East End Cooperative Ministry's Homeless Shelter is looking for coats and blankets for their clients. Last winter, which was extremely cold, found Bower Hill Community Church once again reaching out to help our brothers and sisters stay warm and know that, regardless of their situation, they were not alone or forgotten.

Four carloads (and we mean full carloads!) of coats and blankets were delivered to the homeless shelter. As soon as the coats and blankets arrived, they were distributed. The homeless shelter only provides shelter overnight. That means that until the shelter opens at about 8:00 p.m., the East End's homeless were on the streets in extremely cold weather. The genuine thank-yous we received as we unloaded the car were truly moving.

You can be part of this valuable mission project by bringing gently used or new coats and blankets to the narthex throughout the winter. Although men's coats are the most needed, women's and children's coats will be put to good use through the many outreach projects of East End Cooperative Ministry.

*"I was shivering and you gave me clothes" (Matthew 25:36 - Message Bible©)*

## CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH US

### Advent Vespers

*Wrapped in Swaddling Clothes*

**Wednesday Evenings, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel**

**Communion served at each service in the traditional manner.**

**Calvin C. Wilson, preaching**

December 2

*"How Common the Manger!"*

*...and laid him in a manger . . . Luke 2:7*



December 9

*"How Crowded the Inn!"*

*. . . no place for him in the inn. Luke 2:7*

December 16

*"How Glorious the Night!"*

*And suddenly there was with the angel . . .*

Luke 2:13

CHRISTMAS EVE



**December 24**  
Christmas Eve

**5:00 P.M.**

Family Candlelight  
Service

Children's Pageant  
Josie Sheldon, Di-  
rector

**8:00 P.M.**

Candlelight  
and Carol Service

Luke 2:1-7

*The Strange Charm  
of a Country Inn*  
Calvin C. Wilson,  
preaching

## WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

### Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Luke 1:26-38

*The Divine Interloper*

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Lector: Jason Rising

### Sunday, December 13

Third Sunday of Advent

Genesis 2:4-25; John 1:1-5, 20:19-23

*Breathe*

Grafton T. Eliason, preaching

Lector: Theresa Child

### Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1:18-25

*The Bethlehem Scandal*

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Lector: Ben Hohlfelder

### Sunday, December 27

First Sunday after Christmas

Matthew 2:1-18

*Regal Blood*

Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Lector: Joan Zakor

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Dave & Susan Hicks, Dave & Nancy Green,

Rick & Pat Jacobs

### GREETERS

Dec. 6: Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder, Nina  
Helbling

Dec. 13: Woody & Barb Hughes, Christine  
Henney

Dec. 20: Phil & Linda Johnson, Dawn Kane

Dec. 27: Dick & Kate Junker, Kurt Kerner

### USHERS

Steve & Debbie Boisvert, Bob Bridges,

Chuck & Mary Laufer, Bob Winnett

### ADVENT READERS

The T. Westerhoff Family

Lease Family

The Rising Family

The Waine Family

## ADULT EDUCATION IN DECEMBER

“**Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**” is the theme of Bower Hill adult education for three December Sundays in Advent. This three-part series will lay the groundwork for our understanding of the Advent season. The programs will be led by The Rev. Calvin Wilson and Elder Dave Green.

The sequence of classes will address three essential questions regarding the coming of the Christ:

- 1) *The Messiah Foretold: What Were the Old Testament Prophecies?* ( Dec. 6);
- 2) *The Messiah in Context: What Were the Cultural and Political Dynamics of the Time* (Dec.13); and

3) *The Messiah's Birth: What Are the Essential Implications of the Nativity?* (Dec. 20)

There will be no adult education class on December 27. Adult education meets in the library at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday unless otherwise announced. Typical attendance is 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](mailto:davegreenpgh@aol.com).  
Phone: 412-531-2205

### CHRISTMAS AT WASHINGTON CITY MISSION

Christmas Day takes on a whole new meaning when we share with those who are in need. This Christmas we will once again be cooking and serving dinner for the residents and community members of the Washington City Mission in Washington, PA.

There will be numerous ways in which members can help. The first way is to volunteer to help prepare and serve the Christmas Day dinner. We will need 10 volunteers to man each of the two shifts. The noon until 2:30 p.m. shift will prepare the meal and serve the residents of the mission, and the 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. shift will serve community members and help with clean-up. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the Friendship Room.

If you cannot make it on the 25<sup>th</sup>, there are other ways to help with the event. As we have done in the past, we will be baking pies to take with us for the meal's dessert. We are looking for 15 pies to be baked. You can provide apple, cherry, pumpkin or pecan. Pies can be turned in at the kitchen on Christmas Eve. Again, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Friendship Room.

We will also be filling gift bags, making decorations to take with us and writing Christmas cards for the residents of the Mission. We will gather following worship on December 20<sup>th</sup> for a time of fun and fellowship to assemble all that we will deliver on Christmas Day. There will be activities for all ages to help. Also on December 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be baking cookies for a cookie exchange. Anyone can bake cookies to bring to the church that day. Cookies will be for sale to members and all proceeds will go toward the cost of preparing the Christmas Day dinner.

So, in whatever way you can participate, please join us in making Christmas Day more memorable for the Washington City Mission. Thanks!



## OPERATIONAL UPDATES



Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting regularly for one year now. While we have interviewed several promising candidates, each has fallen short of a mutual call to serve Bower Hill. We are not discouraged because we feel God's guidance in the process to find the right person. Plus, there is no shortage of interesting applications.

To review, the process begins when we receive a Pastor Information Form (PIF.) A self-referral shows interest in us because that candidate has already read our Church Information Form (CIF.) The seven of us review every self-referral. As a committee, we decide who merits the next step: a one-on-one phone interview. After a positive discussion, we contact the references and listen to recorded sermon samples. With this additional information, we decide whether or not to proceed with a whole-committee phone interview. If we are still interested, we visit (as incognito as possible) their churches on a Sunday morning. For a very select few, we will conduct an in-person

interview and arrange a neutral pulpit worship service experience. Once we decide to offer the position, the Presbytery will double-check the candidate's suitability for our church.

You should know that prayer is an integral part of the process and, because of it we, as a committee, have grown spiritually. We thank you for your continued prayers for our deliberations. Please contact any of us with your questions or concerns. Rick Jacobs (Chair), Theresa Child, Mary Good, Dave Hicks, Gordon Mitchell, Kiri Rising and Margaret Zabo



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 2009

#### Clerk's Comments

- The Rev. Cal Wilson's contract as Interim Pastor was extended for six months.
- Session approved a request by the Greater Pittsburgh Council to use church facilities on a monthly basis for a year as part of their Two Steps Forward program. This is a Scouting outreach program in which Scouts work with children under Juvenile Court supervision to keep them out of detention centers.
- The Christian Education Committee is looking for teachers/mentors/helpers to work on a rotating basis with middle school students during worship services so that all of them can attend church at least periodically.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

### HANDICAP PARKING

Please be advised that the Session is considering making all of the parking spaces outside the kitchen entrance Handicap-accessible for  
**SUNDAY MORNING ONLY.**

The Session is requesting that only people with handicap needs park in these designated areas, with the exception of the space closest to the dumpsters, which shall remain open for those delivering food to the kitchen.

Thank you in advance for cooperation.

### FROM THE DESK OF DAN GETKIN



Well, we are firmly in the midst of the holiday season now! It's such a fun and exciting time of year, but I feel sometimes like I'm moving in fast forward. The youth group has only gotten busier too. It is great to see our students more and more involved, even as they continue juggling all of their other obligations. As we approach Christmas, there is the temptation to start wishing for life to slow down a bit. There is no shortage of work to do through the holidays, and the pace only quickens through the end of the year.

What I have started to notice, though, is that it is hard to think of a time in the future when there will actually be an opportunity to slow down. It's a bit hard to believe, but already we are thinking about our summer work trip! There's so much planning, fundraising and preparation that will need to take place in just the next couple of months. So much for slowing down! In spite of the work load that is in front of us, I am impressed with the excitement level of our students. They could be dragging their feet, only interested in the fun contained in the trip itself. Instead they seem ready to take on the responsibility of bringing the trip to fruition. Their devotion energizes and inspires me. Surely there will be opportunities for us all to relax and fool around, but when there is work to be done, I have no doubt that we will be ready to be used by God. Please, continue to support your students in this ministry. Your prayers and encouragement, among everything else you do, are extremely appreciated. I thank God that there is such a close relationship shared among everyone in this church. We are truly blessed.

### WREATH SALE



The BHCC Youth Group Wreath Sale is underway!

Once again, we are selling holiday wreaths to raise support for this summer's work trip. A 20" Fraser wreath can be purchased for \$20, or two for \$30.

Each wreath also comes with a bow in a color of your choice. To purchase, contact any of our students or e-mail Dan at [da@bhccml.com](mailto:da@bhccml.com).

Your continued support of the youth work trip is extremely appreciated!



**Christmas flowers will be \$11 this year,  
with proceeds supporting the Youth Work Trip.**

**You may complete and mail this form or place it in the offering.**

**Money will be also be collected in church Dec. 6th and 13th.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

# of Plants \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please deliver this order form with payment  
to the Church Office or leave in the Offering tray.

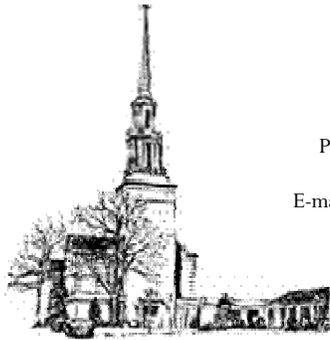
Order Deadline is December 13th.

Flowers can be taken home after the second service on Christmas Eve.

# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

70 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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Fax: 412-561-2252  
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[www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)



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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)

Dan Getkin, Youth Director  
[da@bhccml.com](mailto:da@bhccml.com)

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary  
[di@bhccml.com](mailto:di@bhccml.com)

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

**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