

# BOWER HILL NEWS



Dear Friends,

At this juncture of the coursing seasons, we are caught up in the sweep of time, which freely flows from the familiarity of Christmas to the anticipation of the New Year, as well as a new decade. The traditional words of Tennyson sound the note of hope's awakening:

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light;  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring in the valiant one and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

At this threshold in our corporate life together, we ring out the old and ring in the new. In any and every experience yet to be known in 2010, we—God's people here at Bower Hill Community Church—will ring in the Christ that was, that is, and is to be: the Christ who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, the Christ who stands at the door of the New Year and knocks, the Christ who makes all things new.

Emerging from the cinder-dust of the Christmas hearth, we wonder what significant opportunities Christ will offer us at this New Year portal. To what stellar heights shall we be summoned to serve our fellow travelers on this mutual globe? What dark corners of despair and injustice will beckon us on to herald God's message of light and optimism?

We greet a new day here at Bower Hill Church. There grows before our very eyes a jocund day, a happy day, a merry day, an anticipatory day, a day of promise, opportunity and optimism. There lies before us *a land of dreams, so various, so beautiful, so new*. As we look with passionate expectation to new pastoral leadership in the near future—where Christ makes all things new—let us appropriate His promises and press on to preeminent possibilities for the Body of Christ in this place.

Hats off to the past! Coats off to the future!

Yours faithfully,  
Calvin C. Wilson

**JANUARY  
2010**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COMMUNITY NOTES: FOODBANK BOOKWORMS MISSION EVENT FLEAMARKET RESULTS SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST THANK YOU	2
YOUTH DIRECTOR MUSIC NOTES LAURIE UPDATE	3
WORSHIP INFORMATION ADULT EDUCATION	4
OPERATIONAL UPDATES	5
CARE LIST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS	6

## COMMUNITY NOTES

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!



On Sunday, **January 10th**, 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.



**January:** *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett  
Hostess: Nancy Green

**February:** *Boomsday*  
by Christopher Buckley  
Hostess: Nina Helbling

### SAVE THE DATE



This fall during Faith in Action, we had the privilege of helping the Light of Life Rescue Mission with two projects: preparing lunch for their residents and putting together Kitchen Starter Kits for their men and women moving into transitional housing. Also during Adult Education, we heard from Bill Rhoades, Manager of Volunteer Resources. We learned a lot about Light of Life and other ways we might be of service to the poor and homeless men and women they assist.

On Sunday, February 14th we will be cooking and serving the evening meal for the Light of Life Rescue Mission. We will prepare the food (for 200 people!) in our church kitchen following Adult Education. We will then need 7 volunteers to go to Light of Life and help serve the meal beginning at 4:30.

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to help us as we continue to put our faith in action. If anyone is interested in helping with the menu planning and food shopping, please call Betsy Hohlfelder at 412-341-1029 or email [betsyho@verizon.net](mailto:betsyho@verizon.net).

### FLEA MARKET UPDATE

Thank you to all the people who made this year's flea market a success: the members who donated items, the bakers who made goodies for the snack bar, and all the volunteers who worked so hard pricing, setting up and helping out the day of the sale. Thanks to the generosity of the members of Bower Hill, the Flea Market made a little over \$3100. The snack bar manned by the Middies was also a success, making about \$200.

The proceeds from last year's Flea Market were split into thirds: 1/3 to the Youth, 1/3 to Building and Grounds, and 1/3 to Mission. Pending approval by Session, the proceeds from this year should be divided in a similar manner.

Despite the success of the sale, there were still many items left. Washington City Mission came twice and took over half of what was left including all the books. Many items were delivered to Goodwill. The few things that Goodwill wouldn't take were put on Craigslist, either for free or for a few dollars.

Thanks again for all your help. We couldn't have done it without you!

### SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CONTINUES

Senior men's breakfast meets at 8 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. We had ten men at the gathering in December. 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.

### THANK YOU TO FEED MY SHEEP



Alice Cantalupo received a basket of cookies in December from Feed My Sheep and would like to express her delight and thanks to the women who support this wonderful mission of Bower Hill Community Church.

## FROM THE DESK OF DAN GETKIN



Happy new year from the BHCC Youth Ministry team! It is my hope that you enjoyed a restful and blessed Christmas season and that your 2010 is off to a similar start. This part of winter is often the hardest part of the year for me. With the holidays over, a great season of joy has come to a close, and yet the bright, sunny days of spring seem so far away! My mind often wanders to think of warmth and, dare I say, summer. However, I have to wrestle with my mind to keep it firmly placed in the present. There is so much wonderful work to be done before spring dawns on us that it is also unimaginable that it should come a day sooner.

Thank you so much for the support you have given to us through our Wreath Sale. There will be more opportunities to contribute to our summer work trip, and I hope you will continue to see the amazing possibilities for God to do work in and through our students! I am continually surprised at their eagerness to confront the challenges of this world and do what they can to serve God in the world. In mission opportunities large and small, they do not desire to be part of an audience, but active servants. Their energy is contagious, and it is fun to watch it spread. I sincerely hope you see this as much as I do. Thanks for all you have afforded them. Your investments continue to pay rich dividends!



## Laurie's New Address

Laurie Sponaugle  
109 Pittstown Road  
Pittstown, New Jersey  
08867

I have been called to Bethlehem Presbyterian Church in Pittstown, NJ. It is just over the PA line on Route 78. I will be serving as a solo pastor and will begin my ministry on Dec. 29. The moving van will pull away on Dec. 15th and I will follow on the 18th, so that the boys can begin school during those few short days before Christmas. Some of the most exciting things about the church are its dedication to hands-on mission. A member of the congregation founded a program called Grow-A-Row, and many in the church and community are involved in growing food and donating it to the local food pantries.

The church is also heavily involved in the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is a temporary housing program for families that are homeless, and it is housed in local churches for a week on a rotating basis.

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

*I would like to thank all of the people who participated in special music during Advent and Christmas:*



- Lynne Wohleber, Rick Jacobs, Jean Miewald and Aaron Jones. Thank you for your time and energy to provide the extra music during Worship!
- I would also like to congratulate the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir on the excellent performance of our Christmas concert. Thank you for your extra hard work!
- I would also like to thank the Friends of Music Committee; your hard work putting together the lunches and concerts were much appreciated.
- Thank you to those who supported and attended our Fall Concert Series. All three concerts were successful in raising money for the Friends of Music Committee.

## WORSHIP INFORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

### Sunday, January 3

Second Sunday after Christmas

Holy Communion

Revelation 3:14-22

*Embrace All Hope*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### Sunday, January 10

Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15- 17, 21-22; Luke 4:16-24

*The Visage behind the Veil*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### Sunday, January 17

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hebrews 11:13-16

*To Hope for the Mountaintop*

Daniel T. Getkin, preaching

### Sunday, January 24

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ephesians 6:1-20

*Suiting Action to the Word*

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### Sunday, January 31

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason, preaching

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill Cadwell, Pete Fenton, Kurt Kerner, Carolyn Phillippe

### GREETERS

January 3: Graham and Carol Knox, Keith Mason

January 10: Chuck and Mary Laufer, Beth Wilson

January 17: Tim and Darendra Lease, LuAnn McNickle

January 24: Jen and Mike McDonough, Lisa Schwallon

January 31: Dave and Connie May, Brad May

### USHERS

Steve and Debbie Boisvert,

Bob Bridges, Chuck and Mary Laufer, Bob Winnett

### LECTORS

January 3: Alan Hohlfelder

January 10: Mary Good

January 17: Phil Johnson

January 24: Amanda Vosburgh

January 31: Jim McAnulty

### ADULT EDUCATION IN JANUARY EXPLORES A VARIETY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

#### January 3

We will view and discuss a Bill Moyers PBS interview with Karen Armstrong, religious author and advocate for compassion through faith.

#### January 10

Presentation on the Pittsburgh Presbytery Task Force on Ministry with Sexual Minorities. Speaker is Carol Untch, chair of the task force.

#### January 17

“Reforming the Pennsylvania Legislature,” presentation by Mary Larsen, member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

#### January 24

“What Poverty Does to Children,” presentation by Beth Wilson, psychiatric social worker.

#### January 31

“Where Do You Stand on Climate Change? The 1% Dilemma,” presentation by Rick Jacobs.

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

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES



### FROM THE PNC

It is time for another update from the PNC. We are making progress, but we are not finished. Each of our seven PNC members has diligently reviewed many pages of application forms, called Personal Information Forms, which have been sent to us by potential candidates for the position of Pastor at BHCC. Then we discuss what we have read and vote about whether or not we should interview the person by phone. We are following the Presbyterian polity closely to make sure what we are doing is fair and comprehensive.

We identified the strongest candidates and our team has done personal interviews of candidates on the telephone. We dropped some of the candidates after the initial phone interview. The next step is to check references of the candidates we think fit our criteria. We have visited churches to hear preaching and were serious about several candidates, but for one reason or another we did not feel the mutual call from God. The Presbytery will be involved at the very end of our process to examine the candidate's suitability and qualifications.

The committee shares this detail, again, to make sure you are aware of the process we are following and the efforts of the committee to this point. We are still committed to finding the right person for Bower Hill. We have grown spiritually as a group through our many meetings, where we have engaged in prayer and thoughtful deliberations. The fact is that this process just takes time. We pray that you will continue to support us with your prayers and patience. We are trying very hard to discern God's will and determine who He wants to call.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 23, 2009:

#### Clerk's Comments

- The date of the first semi-annual congregation meeting in 2010 will be February 28.
- A new procedure regarding the formation of Session committees was adopted. As a result, the Administration and Personnel Committee will now be formed in the same manner as the other committees of Session. An attempt will be made to broaden the involvement of congregation members in the work of Session committees.
- There are currently five handicapped parking spaces outside the kitchen entrance for use by BHCC members and visitors. Session approved restricting all the other parking spaces in this area to handicapped use on Sunday mornings only.
- A new procedure regarding committee expenditures was adopted. The intent is to avoid budget overruns without prior Session approval.
- The Deacons have adopted an addition to their grief ministry in which a series of four short books are given to members at intervals (three weeks, three months, six months, eleven months) following the death of a loved one.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

70 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243

Phone: 412-561-4114  
Fax: 412-561-2252  
E-mail: [office@bhccml.com](mailto:office@bhccml.com)  
[www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)



**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 2335  
Pittsburgh, PA**

RETURN SERVICE

## 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**, Kane Hospital

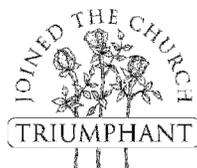
**Tooie Sharkey**, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**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

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



**Paul Frock**  
**November 8, 1926—December 16, 2009**

**Our deepest sympathies are extended  
to Mary Lou and family at this time.**