

# BOWER HILL NEWS

## OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."*

**Matthew 16:24**

Dear Friends,

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, we shall commence our forty-day Lenten journey, following Jesus into the wilderness, then to Jerusalem and the cross. It was a lonely journey for the Master, with the intensity of his loneliness captured by the American Spiritual:

*Jesus walked this lonesome valley. He had to walk it by Himself;  
O, nobody else could walk it for him, he had to walk it by himself.*

In this one event—Jesus' lonely journey—lies all the hope of every generation since then until now. By this desolate journey of our Savior, we know that God hears our riveting cries of loneliness and identifies with our personal agony. Even though we are perpetually surrounded by caring people, nobody can actually feel our pain, or suffer our losses, or die our deaths in our place. Yet God in Christ, on his way to the cross, has preceded us in all of these isolated paths. One might even make the case that God had tasted loneliness even before his creating the universe.

*And God stepped out on space  
And He looked around and said,  
"I'm lonely—  
I'll make me a world."*

*With His head in His hands,  
God thought and thought,  
Till He thought: I'll make me a man!<sup>1</sup>*

If there is any truth in James Weldon Johnson's description of the Creation, God himself was lonely, so lonely, it seems, that he decided to create the world and everything in it, including human beings to keep him company. If God was lonely, why would we—created in God's image—be surprised that loneliness is an inescapable element in our human nature! In point of fact, it is precisely this insatiate loneliness that drives us into a mystical union with God. *Our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee, O God,* cries Augustine.

Soon we'll begin our Lenten journey. It is one we'll take together—collectively as a community of faith—yet at the heart of the excursion, we shall be looking deep within ourselves to the very depths of our individual being, searching for a well-spring of strength to walk this lonesome valley and to ultimately endure the loathsome cross.

In these forty days, may God grant us new meaning for the mystery of life and strength for the mastery of life!

Affectionately yours,  
Calvin C. Wilson  
Interim Pastor

<sup>1</sup> James Weldon Johnson, God's Trombones, The Creation, stanza 1 and 10

## FEBRUARY 2010

**THE DATE OF THE  
FIRST SEMI-ANNUAL  
CONGREGATION  
MEETING IN 2010  
WILL BE  
FEBRUARY 28.**

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

**FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!**

On Sunday, **Sunday Feb. 14**, 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.



**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 p.m.

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).

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONTINUES WED. MORNINGS**

Senior men's breakfast meets Wednesday, Feb. 3, at 8 a.m. and every first Wednesday of the month at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. We had six men at the gathering in January despite the cold weather.

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.

**ANGEL TREE RESULTS**

As usual, you, the members of the BHCC congregation, were the angels this Christmas to so many individuals who benefit from the Angel Trees. This year you provided 30 gifts to the children of Lydia's Place, which were delivered in time for their Christmas party on Dec. 16th.

*Thank You*

You donated \$1,140 for the girls at Hekima Place, to go along with the \$1,500 from the mission facilitation fund. And you contributed three bags of items and \$545 to Operation Troop Appreciation to help bring some touch of the holiday season to our troops overseas. Kristen Holloway, the local coordinator of OTA, called to thank the congregation for the continued support of the troops:

**"Year after year Bower Hill Community Church has been there to generously support our efforts to make the Holidays better for our troops and it is greatly appreciated."**

Your generosity, every year, is amazing. You all certainly understand what it means to help those among us who are in need, living out what is written in James 2:

**"I will show thee my faith by my works."**

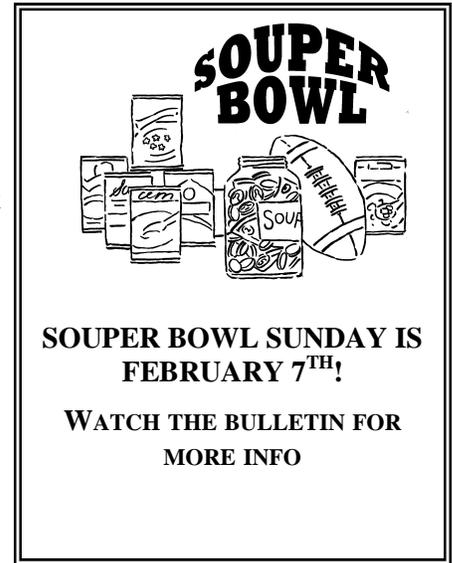
Many thanks!

Your Mission Committee

## FROM THE DESK OF DAN GETKIN

# YOUTH GROUP SCOOP

As we fight through the bitter cold of a Pittsburgh weather, it is a great joy to be looking towards the summer! As you know, we are fully engaged in planning and fundraising for our summer work trip. The mere idea of working outside makes me feel a little bit warmer. Thank you for all the support and encouragement you continue to offer as the planning goes forth. Such a trip is not possible without your gracious words, prayers, and donations. I will keep you updated as we make continued progress towards our goals. Our students continue to engage in wonderful discussion during our education time. They are extremely thoughtful when dealing with mature subjects such as anger, wealth, and depression. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to face such things in school and in the rest of the world. It is our hope that God would provide them protection against all the hurt and confusion that can be thrown at them. God has been good to them, and it is wonderful to see such blessings.



**SCOUT  
SUNDAY  
FEB. 28**

**Boy Scouts from Troop 28  
and Cub Scouts from Pack  
28 will join us in worship  
on Feb. 28 to observe Scout  
Sunday.**

**Bower Hill Church has  
continuously sponsored  
Boy Scout units for at least  
58 years.**

**This year, 2010, is the 100<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of the Boy  
Scouts of America.**

## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



Lent is fast approaching!! We begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17, with a service of Evensong in the Sanctuary. The service of Evensong is originally part of the Anglican tradition, part of Evening Prayer. It is typically a service of High Mass, including sung psalms, a Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The Magnificat translates as the song of Mary, "My soul doth magnify the Lord," and the Nunc Dimittis translates as the canticle of Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

This mostly sung service will be offered by the Chancel Choir.

The Chancel Choir will be offering special music in the form of a Cantata for our Good Friday Service, held in the sanctuary. We will be singing a Cantata by Hal H. Hopson, entitled, "Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness." Tenebrae (Latin for "service" or "darkness") is typically held during Passion Week, and is the gradual extinguishing of candles while a series of readings and anthems is presented. Hopson's Cantata commemorates the final hours of Christ's life on earth as He prepared for and suffered death on the cross.

Please consider joining us for all of the special services occurring during Lent.

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."  
~Psalm 51:10*

## WORSHIP INFORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

### **Sunday, February 7:** Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Communion  
Ephesians 6:1-20  
*Suiting Action to the Word*  
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### **Sunday, February 14:** Transfiguration of the Lord

Luke 9:28-43  
*Lord Christ, Servant Christ*  
Daniel T. Getkin, preaching

### **Wednesday, February 17:** Ash Wednesday

### **Sunday, February 21:** First Sunday in Lent

Sacrament of Baptism  
Luke 4:1-13  
*CROSS PURPOSES: Divine Dominion*  
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

### **Sunday, February 28:** Second Sunday in Lent

Scout Sunday  
Luke 13:31-35  
*CROSS PURPOSES: Right and Wrong*  
The Rev. John Yohe, preaching

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

**Feb. 1:** Glenn and Sally Child,  
Theresa Child, Mary Good  
Choir: Lee Ferraro, Glenna Creaves –Karkaria

**Feb. 17:** Dennis and Nancy Geis,  
Bob and Joan Bridges  
Choir: Joan Zakor and Lynne Wohleber

### **GREETERS**

**Feb. 7:** Jim and Joan McAnulty, Betty Ewing  
**Feb. 14:** Michelle Patrick, Jim McAnulty,  
Judy Delestienne  
**Feb. 21:** Jason and Kiri Rising, John Theilacker  
**Feb. 28:** Michael Waine, Mary Beth Waine, Anne  
Noland

### **USHERS**

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

### **LECTORS**

**February 7:** Joan Bridges  
**February 14:** Susan Hicks  
**February 21:** Theresa Child  
**February 28:** Scout Sunday

## ADULT EDUCATION PRESENTS RABBI MAHLER ON SOCIAL JUSTICE; OPENS LENTEN SERIES

### **February 7**

Rabbi Mark Mahler of Temple Emanuel will speak to us  
about the Jewish social justice ethic as given in the creation story.

### **February 14**

Neighborhood Academy's head, The Rev. Thomas Johnson,  
returns to Bower Hill to report on the private school's inner city students mission.

### **February 21 and 28**

A six-week Lenten series led by The Rev. Grafton Eliason and scholar Christopher Berg begins.  
The overall title of the series is "The Cross at the Center of the World. Implications of the Cross for Multicultural Societies." The first two topics will be "The Disparity of Wealth and Poverty"  
and "The Ravaging Impact of Disease."  
The personal experiences of our speakers will energize this series.

Adult education sessions are held in the church library at 10:45 a.m. each Sunday unless otherwise announced.  
Dave Green is chair of the adult education committee. Phone 412-531-2205 Email [davegreenpgh@aol.com](mailto:davegreenpgh@aol.com)

## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT: SPECIAL SERVICES

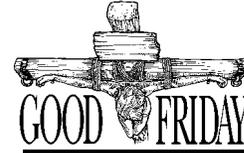


**Ash Wednesday, February 17**  
Evensong and Holy Communion  
featuring the Chancel Choir  
in the Sanctuary  
7:00 p.m.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**  
Agape Feast and Communion  
in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m.  
*The Swinging Pendulum*  
Calvin C. Wilson, preaching



**Good Friday, April 2**  
Ecumenical Good Friday Service  
Noon to 3:00 p.m.  
Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church



**Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness, April 2**  
Good Friday Cantata  
Featuring the Chancel Choir  
in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

## LENTEN STUDY SERIES OFFERED IN THE SANCTUARY



**Overheard:** Conversations by the Cross  
Five Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

**February 24**

*Malchus and Mark*

Featuring Richard Jacobs and David Hicks

**March 3**

*Barabbas and Caiaphas*

Featuring Jason Rising and Charles Laufer

**March 10**

*Pilate and Procula*

Featuring David Green and Cynthia Gissin

**March 17**

*Simon of Cyrene and the Centurion*

Featuring Richard Westerhoff and Lynn Foltz

**March 24**

*Mary and John*

Featuring Darendra Lease and Daniel Getkin

## PNC REPORT



### **From the Pastor Nominating Committee :**

It's a year since the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began its work to find a new pastor for Bower Hill Community Church. You may remember our process. We spent several months preparing a Church Information Form (CIF) based on the congregational survey completed in late 2008, conversations with church members, consultation with Session and the pastor, and a lot of prayer. This CIF was then advertised on the PCUSA's Church Leadership Connection website, where it was available to pastors across the country who were seeking a new position. These pastors submitted Personal Information Forms (PIFs) describing their qualifications and their experience to the same website. PIFs are matched to our CIF by the computer using key words and phrases and these matches are reviewed further by PCUSA to produce referrals to our PNC. This process has produced more than 170 referrals since last April.

In addition, pastors who review our CIF and find it interesting, may self-refer their PIFs to our PNC with a request to be considered for our position. To date we have received more than 50 self referrals. Our PNC has evolved to focus mainly on the self-referrals.

We have discovered that the characteristics of our church that attract candidates are:

- **Our commitment to mission**
- **Our welcoming of spiritual and lifestyle diversity into our congregation**
- **Our desire to grow spiritually and reach out to our community with God's love.**

What we're looking for is a candidate who:

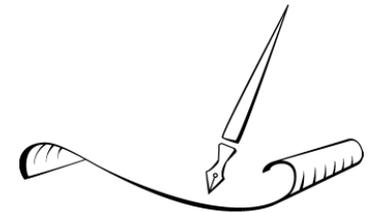
- **Enjoys interacting with people and will love our congregation**
- **Is a strong preacher**
- **Is energetic and enthusiastic about coming to Bower Hill and will help us grow spiritually and in service to Christ.**

Once we have found matches, the committee interviews prospective candidates and their references, listens to sermons on either CD or a website and interviews promising prospects by phone. We eliminate candidates who do not have enough experience, whose qualifications do not match our needs, or who do not show a genuine interest in Bower Hill. We have several candidates that have successfully made it to the stage where our PNC meets with them at Bower Hill to discuss a potential call to our church. Although we have been close, these interviews have not produced the match we are looking for so far.

The holidays and the snow have given us time to contemplate where we are and how to continue. We are not discouraged. In fact right now there are several definite possibilities. Women and men, young and not so young are under consideration. 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. This is a difficult task and the committee wants to be very careful in making the selection of the next pastor for Bower Hill Church. The committee continues to request your prayers and welcomes your questions or comments on the process.

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

- 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.

**Clerk's Comments**

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATES****COLD WEATHER ENTRANCE FOR WORSHIP**

Recently we have been experiencing some very frigid temperatures on Sunday mornings. In an effort to prevent heat loss to the Sanctuary for worship, we will be directing people who use the Sanctuary entrance to us the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

On the Sundays we choose to do this we will put "orange cones" outside the Sanctuary doors directing people to the Fellowship Hall entrance. This will help us save on the amount of heat that is lost in the Sanctuary during the Worship Service.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

**SUNDAY MORNING SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEERS**

On Sunday mornings when we have experienced a heavy snow fall, the following people have agreed to meet at the Church at 8:30 a.m. to help Mike, our Custodian, remove snow from the steps of the Church:

Mary Good, Dave and Susan Hicks, and Glenn Child. Thank you in advance to above volunteers.

Other Church members are welcome to join in this endeavor. Cleaning the steps and walkways from Moffett Street to the Sanctuary is most critical, and the walkway and steps from the parking lot near Hospice are also an area of need.

**We would like to thank  
Todd Westerhoff for his many  
contributions to the  
Buildings and Grounds Committee.**

**Todd, unfortunately had to resign as  
Chairperson at the end of 2009 because  
of time constraints at work.**

**Thank you Todd.**

**As a result we are looking for two  
additional people for the  
B&G Committee to work with Bill An-  
drews , Mary Good and Lynn Foltz.**

**Please contact the Church Office  
if you are interested.**

# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, Interim Pastor  
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

Dan Getkin, Youth Director  
da@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary  
di@bhccml.com

Emily Kerr, Secretary  
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

**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

**Barbara Prunchak**, c/o Crestwood Commons, 100 Crestwood Court #223, Wheatfield, NY 14304

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

**James M. Redmond**

**11-01-1923**

to

**12-19-2009**



**C. Morris Standfest**

**05-06-1921**

to

**01-27-2010**