

BOWER HILL NEWS



*For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

APRIL
2010

Dear Friends,

It may have occurred to all of us, as we repeatedly stood in snowdrifts higher than our recollection, that this would be the Winter which would go down as a *freak of nature*, that is, that Winter had become the default season, the permanent condition of the Northeast and that we would never experience Spring again. Some of us nearly gave up hope, as if we had suddenly stepped into Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* and found ourselves pushing a grocery cart filled with our belongings through snow-covered terrain toward an elusive state of warmth and vegetation. With thanks to God for the consistent change of seasons, however, *the winter is past, the snows are over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come . . .*

Actually, the conclusion of our winter doldrums—our transition from meandering melancholy into singing hope—helps us to identify with Mary Magdalene, who weeps outside Jesus' tomb in the twentieth chapter of John's Gospel. Her agony is endless, intense, a fathomless well of blood and gall, of biting and bitter memories that assault her palsied equilibrium. *Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.* Presumably the gardener approached her and asked a direct question: "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" She had told the angels who asked the same question of her, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Jesus was her everything. Now, in this garden of death and decay—in this endless Winter, so to speak—rather than being possessed in ecstasy by enduring love, Mary is held captive by chronic grief with no hope of consolation . . . until Jesus, the Risen Christ, speaks her name softly: "Mary." Mary turns to Jesus, recognizes him, and exclaims, "Rabboni!" From that very moment, Spring springs forth, and *lo, the Winter is past . . . the flowers appear on the earth, and the time of singing has come.* In lieu of previous bitter options, she chooses to live in victory, not in defeat; to live in hope, not in despair; to deny chronic grief; to restore her lost soul; to acknowledge she was not wrong, that indeed love does last forever . . . for the human spirit in Christ is indomitable, stronger than death. And the key?

The key is recognition of the Christ as risen from the grave, alive for eternity, and victorious over death. We're speaking here of the very heart of the scandalous gospel: that is, that Christ, the Son of God—crucified, dead and buried—has been raised from the dead, which sets forth enormous—even preposterous—implications for each one of us and for those whom we love: namely, the gift of eternal life. Is it true? Yes, it is true! We hold fast to the truth of the Day of Resurrection! *Christ hath burst His prison. 'Tis the spring of souls today.*¹ Let the whole earth tell it out abroad.² Christ is risen!

*Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,*³ the very Hope of Spring and Source of new life!

Faithfully yours,
Calvin Coolidge Wilson, Interim Pastor

¹From the hymn *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*, stanza 2, line 1

²From the hymn *The Day of Resurrection!* stanza 1, line 1

³1 Corinthians 15:27

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COMMUNITY NOTES

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



- Mary Beth and Scott Ryfun
- Leonard Heisey
- David and Shelly Saba
- Josie Sheldon
- Robert and Jennifer Foster

BOOKWORMS

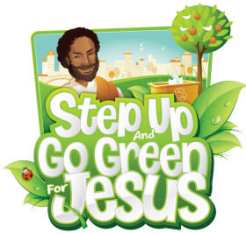


Bookworms meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the home of a member, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Join us for a stimulating discussion and fellowship!

The next meeting will be April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Joan McAnulty's home at Providence Point. The book for discussion will be *The Cellist of Sarajevo* by Steven Galloway.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS will be held for five days during the week of June 21. The time will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The theme is "going green" and the curriculum is titled "Step Up and Go Green for Jesus."



Our committee is getting organized and has begun to establish sub-committees to begin assembling lists of volunteer prospects and needed supplies.

All are encouraged to help us out for any or all of the five days. We need help in the following areas:

- Games
- Snacks
- Songs & Music
- Art Projects
- Story Telling
- General Gophers

We need helpers and ALL are welcome to contribute their gifts and talents...it takes a village. Actually, it takes Bower Hill Community Church. Everyone is welcome to contribute.

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CHANGE



Senior men's breakfast will switch from first Wednesdays to first Tuesdays of each month beginning in April and continue at least through September. The group convenes at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Green

Tree Road, in Scott.

The change is to accommodate men who play in the Mt. Lebanon Senior Men's Golf Club on Wednesdays beginning in April. Subscribers to Town Hall South, normally held on Tuesdays, will not have a conflict because the series ended in March and will not meet again until October. We had ten men at the gathering in March. 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.

LADIES OF ALL AGES SPRING LUNCHEON



On Sunday, May 16 there will be a luncheon for women and girls of all ages, immediately following adult education. This is a great opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Last year this event was a huge success!

Please join your friends at Bower Hill for fellowship, food and fun on May 16. RSVP to the church office. If you are interested in bringing a dish to share, contact Kathy Philson at 412 491-4748 or KathyGRB@aol.com

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **April 11**, 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.



MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER



The Friends of Music Committee is proud to present the final concert in the 2009-2010 Concert Series, again hosting the Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh.

Sunday, April 11, there will be a noon lunch in fellowship hall, followed by a 1:00 p.m. concert in the sanctuary.

Dedicated to wind chamber music performance, composition and promotion, the Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh was founded in September 2003 by the original University of Pittsburgh Wind Quintet. The group has since expanded to include wind chamber ensembles of varying sizes and players who are not directly a part of the University community. The group's members bring the diverse experiences of their daily lives and chosen professions to the music-making, creating a truly unique ensemble.



The Handbell Choir will participate in the North Hills Handbell Festival at Marshall Middle School Saturday, May 1.

The public concert is at 5:00 p.m. and admission is free.

Directions coming from the South on I-79:

Take Exit 75 (old 23) to Warrendale, Rt. 19. When you reach Rt. 19, turn right. Shenot Road will be at the next stoplight. Turn right, continue until you come to a stop sign (a T in the road). It is about a mile. Turn right on Wexford Run Road. Go up the hill until you see the sign for Marshall Middle School. The school is on the left.

BHCC TO HOST BOYS CHOIR

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**BHCC WILL HOST****THE LAND OF LAKES CHOIRBOYS****ON TUESDAY, JUNE 15TH AT****7:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY.**

Adapted from their website:

The Land of Lakes Choirboys' "Viking Choir" ranks as one of the world's finest boy choirs, often spoken of in the same breath as the Vienna Boys' Choir. The group won two Silver Medals and two Gold Diplomas at the "World Choir Games" in Graz, Austria in July 2008, where there were 450 choirs from 93 countries competing. The also won the "2006 Cruise Festival Overall Grand Championship Award", and the 2004 International Trebby Award for "Best Boys' Choir Album" with its CD "Steal Away." The Viking Choir constantly amazes audiences and critics throughout the world, with the richness, clarity, depth and power of their singing.

For a sneak peek of their offerings, you can watch videos online by using this link:

<http://www2.lolcb.org/videos>

WORSHIP INFORMATION FOR APRIL

Thursday, April 1

Maundy Thursday Agape Feast
Communion in the Fellowship
Hall
Matthew 26:30-46
The Swinging Pendulum
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson,
preaching

Friday, April 2

Good Friday Community Service
*The Seven Last Words of Christ
from the Cross*
Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Mt. Lebanon
United Methodist Church

Friday, April 2

Good Friday
Tenebrae in our Sanctuary
A Service of Shadows
Readings and Good Friday Cantata
Chancel Choir
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 11

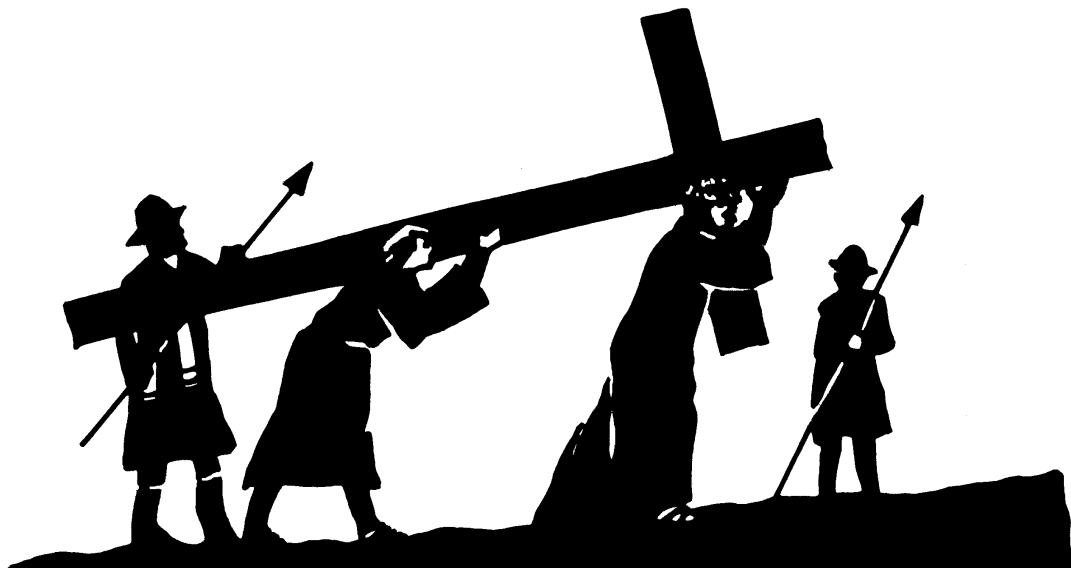
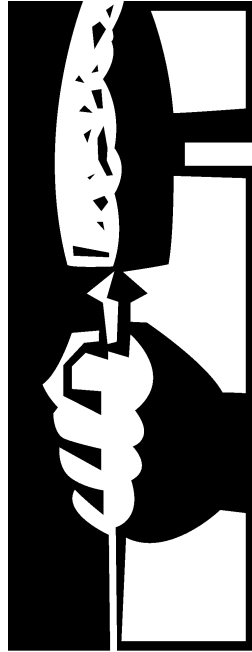
Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion
I Corinthians 15:35-58;
John 21:1-19
Impossible before Breakfast
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson,
preaching

Sunday, April 18

Third Sunday of Easter
John 20:19-31
Seeing with the Heart
The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson,
preaching

Sunday, April 25

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Haiti Emphasis
Dr. Vince Petno, preaching





EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Please join us for Easter Breakfast
at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

Sunday, April 4

Easter/Resurrection of the Lord

Luke 24:1-12

An Idle Tale

The Rev. Calvin C. Wilson, preaching

Hymns

123: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

104: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

119: The Strife is O'er

Music/Anthems

Alleluia! Sing Praise!

Chancel Choir

Brass Quartet

ADULT EDUCATION RESUMES SOCIAL ISSUES IN APRIL

Presentations concerning faith and social justice will resume on **April 11** when the Adult Education group will hear The Rev. Thomas Johnson, head of the Neighborhood Academy.

April 18 will feature a report on the Pittsburgh Presbytery Council's Task Force to Study Abortion.

April 25 will offer a report on the earthquake in Haiti from a retired medical doctor, Vince Petno, who was present doing mission work. He will also preach at the worship service

Rabbi Mark Mahler's talk on the Jewish social justice ethic as given in the creation story, cancelled due to the snow emergency on Feb. 7, is now scheduled for May 9.

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.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN APRIL

COMMUNION SERVERS

Judy Delestienne, Kiri & Jason Rising,

Dave Stewart

Choir: Anne and Gordon Mitchell

PLEASE NOTE:

COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED APRIL 11TH

GREETERS

April 4: Bob & Betty Winnett, Betty Mancini

April 11: George and Eleanora Freas,
Dottie Carter

April 18: Curt and Kathy Philson,
Cynthia Gissin

April 25: Linda Syzslowski, Margie Sewall,
Ginny Starr

LECTORS

April 4: Amanda Vosburgh

April 11: Pat Jacobs

April 18: Tim Lease

April 25: Sally Child

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

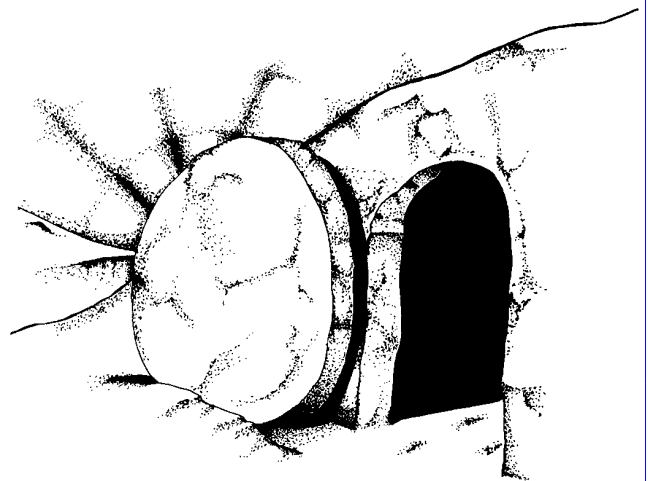
Glenn Child, Bill Andrews

Evan Schardt, Dylan Lease, George Freas

USHERS

Marian Brannan, Jim Corbett, Lucille Heckman,

Earl Kennedy, Bill Ramsey



FROM THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Snow Damage

Church building did sustain some ice, snow and water damage as a result of recent snowstorms. The corrective actions are still in progress.

- Repainting several large areas in the Sanctuary
- Repair the ceiling in the Library
- Repair several other smaller areas throughout the Church
- Repair about a 10' x 6' area on the rubber membrane roof
- Clean gutters
- The Library will be closed during repairs

Mike Bergen

As many of you know, our custodian Mike Bergen had triple bypass heart surgery last month. He continues to

recover well and we are looking forward to having him return.

Handicap Parking

Please continue to cooperate by not parking in the disabled parking area behind the church on Sunday mornings. All spaces (except one) are for our disabled members. Thanks for your cooperation!

Dean Meyers(former Associate Pastor at Bower Hill)

It was reported that Dean Meyers, former Associate Pastor at Bower Hill, visited the Church on Thursday, March 11th. He is retired after 41 years and just visiting because he was in town.

PNC CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS



It's almost a year since we learned that our CIF (Church Information Form) had been accepted by Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) began to review Pastor Information Forms and interview possible candidates. We've looked at 75 resumes, rejected a lot and seriously considered 16 by following up with phone interviews involving the whole committee. Several of these candidates would have been suitable but the committee isn't going to settle for "suitable." We all want to feel that God has brought us the right person, and we'll keep looking until we find that person. We've been close a couple of times but in each case there was some change in circumstances that interrupted the call. It was God's way of saying this isn't the one.

As of March 1, we've started to review a new group of Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) and there are 4 or 5 whom we feel are worth future review. Each committee member has taken one PIF to review and call the applicant to determine if they are still available and interested. The conversation will include a group of questions designed to determine how this person fits into the criteria established in Bower Hill's CIF. Sample sermons are requested. These come in all kinds of media, from old-fashioned tapes to a link on the web to download an audio recording or even a video recording. The electronic age has made this process go quickly. We'll each report on our conversations at the next PNC meeting and decide if there is reason to have the entire committee talk with the prospect.

If the committee agrees that the applicant is a strong candidate, a phone interview will be arranged for the entire committee. Following that, calls will be made to references listed by the candidate. If all comes together, then a personal face-to-face interview will be arranged.

Spring is in the air and the committee is rejuvenated and excited about new possibilities.

The committee continues to request your prayers.

MISSION NEWS

East End Cooperative Ministries Sends Its Thanks and Blessings

Once again, East End Cooperative Ministries Homeless Shelter sends its thanks and blessing to BHCC for the coats and blankets we have provided. Four carloads have been delivered and distributed this winter. Given the severity of the winter and the current recession, there was an abundant need for what the congregation so generously provided. As soon as the deliveries arrived, they were handed out and each time we showed up, the "cupboard was bare." We were a bit concerned that the congregation had cleared out its closets last year and that we would not be able to provide much help this year. How wrong we were! Once again, the generosity and caring of the members of BHCC for our brothers and sisters was put into action.

*"The King will reply,
I tell you the truth,
whatever you did
for one of
the least of these brothers
of mine,
you did for me."*

*Matthew 25:40
New International Version*

Mini Mission Work Trip Opportunity

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 15. Crestfield Camp and Conference Center is hosting a Presbytery Work Day to prepare for the summer season. Last year a team of BHCC volunteers spent a great spring day helping spruce up the grounds. Crestfield has a very small staff and was most appreciative of the work we did on the grounds. Lunch will be provided (free of charge!). Help is needed with painting, clearing trails, sewing and cleaning. Under the auspices of Pittsburgh Presbytery, Crestfield's mission is to "to partner with churches and communities to nurture all people in Christ through discipling, outreach, sanctuary and hospitality so that they may participate more fully in what God is doing in the world." It is one of the few camps where children with special needs and challenges can attend camp in a nurturing and accepting environment.

Volunteers may drive to Crestfield themselves or carpool from the church. We will meet at the church at 8:00 a.m. and be back by dinnertime. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you may email Steve Boisvert at sdboisvert@comcast.net. Join us for a day of service and fellowship.

BHCC YOUTH UPDATES FROM DAN GETKIN



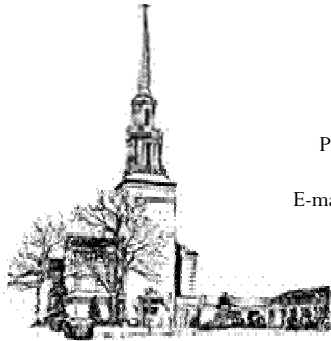
The Bower Hill Youth Group is proud to announce their 2010 Spaghetti Dinner with proceeds benefitting the Toronto Work Trip! Please join us on Sunday, April 18th, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Admission will be \$8 per adult, \$4 per child under 12, or \$25 per family. Once inside, you will enjoy a bottomless salad bar, all you can eat spaghetti with homemade marinara sauce, fresh rolls, an assortment of desserts, and your choice of drink.

We hope you will consider joining us for dinner that evening! For further information, contact Youth Director Dan Getkin at da@bhccml.com.

Thanks to all who supported our hoagie sale in March! We are well on our way to funding our summer work trip. It feels a bit far away still, but we are excited about our trip to Toronto! We are extremely blessed to have you standing behind us as that time approaches. Thank you! In preparation for Youth Sunday on May 2nd, the youth group will spend time in April thinking about worship styles and practices. When we do similar things in our services from week to week, it is easy to lose sight of the reasons behind our worship methods. As we plan our service, we want to be intentional about the choices we make. It will be far more meaningful to understand what we do rather than to simply 'fill in the blanks'. We are excited to lead you all in worship in May!

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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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

Mike Bergen, 227 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228