

# BOWER HILL NEWS



## KICKING OFF

Can I talk about football without feeling like a hypocrite? All my life long, I've claimed the Steelers as my team. The mat at my back door is a rectangle of Astroturf from the old Three Rivers Stadium. Through much of my childhood, Lynn Swann's face was as familiar to me as the face of the guy behind the butcher's counter at our local grocery store. In fact, as a child, I might not have been surprised to see Swann himself behind that counter, wrapping the meat in white paper and string, calling my mother "Mrs. Snyder." Before you ever learn to distinguish TV from real life, grownups are just grownups, and the most famous Steelers were just prominent adults within my sphere. Sadly, I had to do an Internet search to be reminded that Dick Thornburgh was the governor back in my elementary school days, and yet, I recall clearly that Terry Bradshaw was the most famous man in the state. Mean Joe Green could have been our school bus driver; it never occurred to my brothers and me that he wouldn't know us by name if he saw us in the street. Even during those late high school years, after my family had moved to Canton, Ohio—deep in Browns country—I still voiced my support for the Steelers. I wanted them to shine. I still do.

Just...don't ask me to sit down and watch a football game. I'd much rather hike the trails at Raccoon Creek, or read Dr. Seuss books to my kids, or spend an hour on Facebook. I'll support the Steelers, win or lose, but if you invite me to a Super Bowl party, please don't be disappointed when I play with the dog then drift off to sleep. It's not that I don't care about the game, and it's not that I don't care who wins; I just don't care how they go about it. If I were a true fan, I wouldn't get bored when they show the same fumble three times in slow motion. A true fan wouldn't groan inwardly when the game goes into overtime. But I probably don't qualify as a true fan. Mostly, I just want my team to win while I'm not looking. And if I really think about it, I only want them to win because I think it's so good for Western Pennsylvania—my native place—to be cast in a positive light on the national scene. It feels like affirmation.

Football would be a sad sport if all the "fans" were like me. As I was preparing to leave my former congregation, a woman who rarely participated in church life asked us to dinner. In the course of the evening, she confessed, "I really wish I'd been more involved when you were our pastor. I love our church, and I enjoyed your ministry. I guess I was mostly just happy knowing that the church was in good hands so that I could do my own thing on Sunday mornings." Aha! A person who is to her church what I am to my football team! The difference is that sports franchises—unlike churches—always have supporters to spare: the diehard, the halfhearted, and the in-between.

In churches all across the nation, the Sunday after Labor Day is known as "Rally Day." Here at Bower Hill Church—in the heart of Steelers country—we prefer to call it "Kick-off Sunday." It's the beginning of a whole new cycle in the life of the church: new classes and many new friends for our children, relevant study and activities for our youth, and outstanding educational opportunities for adults. This year, too, it's the beginning of a whole new pastorate...about which I am (naturally) very excited! This is a day of new beginnings, with new dreams and visions for the years ahead. Come and take part in the new things that are happening here at your church. It all starts on September 12 at an 8:45 breakfast. The door prize: a rectangle of Astroturf from Three Rivers Stadium.

~Brian

## SEPTEMBER 2010

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## COMMUNITY NOTES

Want to be included on this page?  
 Submissions are due the 15th of every month  
 for the next month's publication.  
 412-561-4114 or office@bhccml.com

### FLEA MARKET NEWS

This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 20. 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. PLEASE do not include clothes, books or large furniture. All items must be clean and in working condition. Watch for more info on opportunities to help price (and get first crack at all merchandise) and get ready for the 2010 flea market. If you have any questions, please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.

### SENIOR MEN'S GROUP CONTINUES ON TUESDAY

Senior men's breakfast will meet on first Tuesdays of each month at least through September. The next meeting is on September 7. The group convenes at 8 AM at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Green Tree Road, in Scott. We normally have eight to twelve men attend. 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.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

The Christian Ed. Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with Sunday School duties on a rotating basis. This would allow our current teachers the ability to join in worship periodically. Curriculum is purchased and minimal, if any, planning commitment is necessary for relief volunteers. Come and be a blessing to our youngest members! If you are interested in participating in serving our youth in this way, please contact Susan Hicks. Thank you!

### BOOKWORMS

Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group. It 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.

**September 21<sup>st</sup> , Hostess: Jackie Holdsworth**  
*The Man From Beijing* by Henning Markkell

**October 19<sup>th</sup> , Hostess: Mary Laufer**  
*Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

## YOUTH GROUP SCOOP FROM YOUR DIRECTOR DAN GETKIN

As our summer draws to a close, we finally have to say goodbye to our college bound young men. It has been a privilege to get to know Dylan Lease, Evan Schardt, and Michael Waine over the last year. On one hand, it is sad to see them move away from Pittsburgh, but on the other hand I feel so much excitement and joy to witness the next major step of their journeys. Dylan will be heading south to study at the University of Maryland. Evan will move to the land of blue and white, choosing to attend Penn State University. Finally, Michael will brave the Lake Erie Snow Belt and head north to Allegheny College. All of us at Bower Hill Community Church are so proud of what these students have already accomplished, and we will pray for their continued success at college.

We have had such a great summer! Even though that season usually means sleeping in and relaxing a bit more, our students stayed remarkably busy. Whether it was at the Choir Boys Concert, Vacation Bible School, the Work Trip, or any of the other fun things we did together, our youth were finding ways to learn, serve, and play. Now the school year looms, and although that tends to bring with it a small measure of dread, I think we are all looking forward to getting back into our regular routines. It will be good to see each other a little more often and a little more regularly. I am excited to see what God will be up to in my second year at Bower Hill! Please continue to pray for our students and for this ministry. Thank you for all that you do for the youth. It is a joy to serve with you in this church.



# FALL KICKOFF

On Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, let's gather to celebrate ...

- the End of Summer,
- the Beginning of School, and
- **the Opportunity to Worship God as the Bower Hill Family of Faith!**

Bring your family ... bring your friends ....  
as Bower Hill Community Church launches the Church year with:

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.....8:45 a.m.  
 Worship service in the Sanctuary.....9:30 a.m.

**"From the Outside"**  
**I Timothy 1:12-17**  
**The Rev. Brian C. Snyder**

Fellowship Time in and around the Friendship Room..... 10:30 a.m.  
 Adult Education Forum in the Library.....11:00 a.m.

**Guest speaker will be John Wilson from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary**

(see page 7 for September's Adult Ed. Schedule)



### Mission Trip to Africa

By Rick Jacobs

Jacobs family travel seems to be stuck on continents that begin with "A". Last fall, we went to Antarctica to see the pristine beauty of one of the few places on Earth untouched by human beings. In September, we will be travelling to Africa for the second time. About 16 years ago, we went to Tanzania where we climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and took a game safari to Ngorogoro Crater (subject of many National Geographic specials).

This time, with the blessing of Bower Hill's Mission committee, Pat and I are doing a mission trip to experience, first-hand, God's work through contributions from our church. We will visit Hekima Place, outside of Nairobi, Kenya to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the orphanage by Kate Fletcher and hopefully, to get to know all the girls there.

We're also planning a side trip to Uganda to meet with a representative of the Ugandan Water Project and visit villages where funds Bower Hill has already collected may be used to provide life-giving water. We're excited about this opportunity and grateful for the support and prayers of Bower Hill for our journey.

If you would like to add us to your prayer list, we will be travelling from Sept. 7 to Sept. 28. We promise to take lots of pictures and bring back stories of God's goodness in Africa to share with the congregation.

### EECM COLLECTION ONGOING

East End Cooperative Ministry is an interfaith ministry dedicated to helping at-risk children and youth, the hungry, the homeless, and others in need throughout Pittsburgh's East End.

EECM's [Safe Haven](#) building was severely damaged by a fire in January. They hope to be able to move six displaced residents back into the renovated facility very soon!

We are currently in the process of collecting household items for the Safe Haven apartments. Items can be left outside of the office.

#### **Kitchen Items**

- 3 microwaves
- 2 two-person kitchen tables with chairs
- Silverware for 3 apartments (*two men in each*)
- Pots & pans for 3 kitchens
- Cooking utensils for 3 kitchens
- 3 kitchen garbage cans
- Dish towels

#### **Bedroom & Bathroom Items**

- 12 sets of bath towels and washcloths\*
- 6 pillows\*
- 12 sets of twin-sized sheets/comforters\*
- 3 shower curtains
- 3 bathtub anti-slip mats
- 3 small bathroom rugs
- 2 mops

*\*Items marked must be new and in the package for health and safety reasons*

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### THANK YOU!

The Mission and Outreach Committee thanks all who participated in the SHIM back to school drive. The following items were collected and delivered to those children in need.

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Back Packs - 5                      | Pencils Boxes - 4        |
| Glue Sticks - 9                     | Notebook Paper - 3 packs |
| Notebooks - 11                      | Pens - 12 packs          |
| Pencils - 9 packs                   | Scissors - 4             |
| 3x5 Index Cards - 4 packs           | Highlighters - 5 packs   |
| Mechanical Pencils - 2 packs        | Tablets - 2              |
| Pocket File Folders - 30            | Report Covers - 1 Box    |
| 3 Ring Binders - 4                  | Pencil sharpeners - 2    |
| Markers - 1 pack                    | Colored pencils - 1 pack |
| 3 x 5 index cards, colored - 1 pack |                          |

### **FOOD COLLECTION FALLS ON KICK-OFF SUNDAY**

On Sunday, September 12th, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. Please give generously! Quality protein like peanut butter and tuna is always welcome. Pantry organizers note that the number of young families being served is increasing and baby items are in critical need. Things like juices, baby fruit, wipes and diapers of all sizes are appreciated.

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

On October 10th, the Mission and Outreach Committee invites you to join them for an evening of fellowship! We are going to host a potluck dinner and share an update highlighting Haiti with a presentation about the nursing school BHCC has sponsored and its needs right now in particular from Donna S. Martsolf, Ph.D. Details to come!

### **JOIN THE SOUTH HILLS CROP WALK**

The South Hills CROP Walk will be held on Sunday, October 10, 2009, with registration at 1:00 and the Walk beginning at 2:00. The walk will start and end at the South Park Fairgrounds Museum Building, and the walk will stay within the Fairgrounds and Corrigan Drive. It is approximately 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) long, but walk whatever you can. One fourth of the funds collected will go directly to local South Hills food programs. Churches and groups contact Ms. Jayme Graham, 412-881-8071, or Spencer United Methodist Church 412-881-4000 to obtain walk forms and walk information for your group. To help with organization, pre-walk learning activities, refreshment breaks or registration tables, call Jayme.

### **TNA BOOK DRIVE CONTINUES**

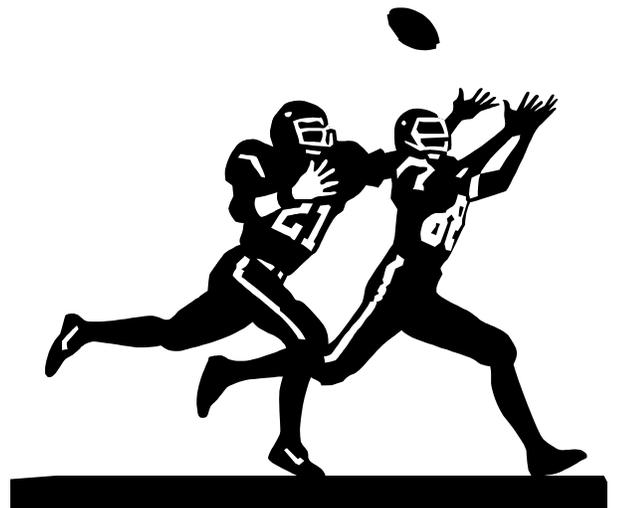
Seven boxes of books were delivered to The Neighborhood Academy a couple of weeks ago and they were very appreciative. We are among the first to help them build their library and the only group to give them books for the very young, so that their students can take them home and read them to their brothers/sisters. Many of the homes of the students have few, if any, books so this is most helpful. The mission committee wants to keep this drive open and ongoing for the foreseeable future, so please continue bringing your generous contributions of books to the church office and your mission committee will make sure that they get to TNA. Many thanks!

The Neighborhood Academy began in 1993 as an innovative summer school program for at-risk youth. In response to the success of the summer school, The Neighborhood Academy opened its doors as a full year day school in September 2001. It's mission is to break the cycle of generational poverty by preparing low-income youth for higher education by providing a holistic college-prep education for students in grades 8-12 who come from low income families.

### **JOIN PRODUCE TO PEOPLE**

Produce to People, a partnership of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, continues to regularly provide fruits, vegetables, canned goods, meat and fish to families at risk.

Monthly, on every third Saturday (second Saturdays in November and December), Presbyterian congregations and Food Bank volunteers join together to distribute food, develop relationships and minister to those in our community who have the greatest need. Families that would otherwise go without healthy nutritional alternatives have come to rely on Produce to People. Members of Bower Hill Community Church have regularly attended the monthly distribution and continue to support this most worthwhile ministry. If you would like to join us, or need any additional information, please see or call Keith Mason.



## THE SOUNDBOARD OPERATORS NEED YOUR HELP: PROPER USE OF MICROPHONES

The soundboard operators are requesting your help when using the microphones during the worship service or other activities. Have you ever noticed how most professional singers have the microphone right next to their lips? There is a reason they do this. The distance your mouth is from microphone is the key to the volume and quality of the sound. Doubling the distance from source of the sound reduces volume by half. The difference in volume between holding a microphone at 1" and 8" is substantial. In addition, quite often a person may be holding the microphone below their mouth when talking to the congregation. In this case most of the sound of their voice is directed to the congregation and a lesser amount is directed at the microphone. This will reduce the volume through the sound system speakers even more. While the sound board operators can "turn up the microphones", doing so increases the distortion and the chance of feedback. If the volume is turned up so you can hear a person who is speaking 8" from the microphone and they move the microphone to 1" from their month, the volume will increase substantially and be unacceptably loud. Varying the distance when speaking into the microphone causes the soundboard operator to constantly adjust the volume to try to keep a consistent volume.

The design of the microphone can make a difference. In general the pulpit and communion table microphones are a little more forgiving and a little more distance can be adjusted for. Below is a guide for using the microphones.

Microphone	Suggestions for better sound quality
Pulpit	The microphone is on an adjustable arm. Adjust the microphone as needed for your height. That is, pull down the microphone or move it up so that when you speak the sound will be aimed at the microphone and as close as possible to your mouth.
Communion Table	The microphone is sitting about 14" off the communion table. While this microphone is more forgiving, the more you can direct your voice toward the microphone the better. Taller members or those with a soft voice need to either speak louder and/or direct their voice directly at the microphone.
Baptismal Lectern	The microphone is on a stand behind the lecture. Adjust the angle of the microphone so the when you speak the sound will be aimed at the microphone. You may not be able to get as close to this microphone but as long as your voice is aimed at the microphone, the soundboard operators should be able to compensate. Those with soft voices may need to speak louder to compensate for the distanced to the microphone.
Handheld microphone	Keep the microphone 1-2" inches directly in front of your mouth. Ideally, the bottom of the microphone should be pointing toward the congregation. When asking the children questions, move the microphone 1-2" in front of their mouths for the response.
Lapel microphone	You can face the congregation and talk normally. Turning your head sideways may reduce the sound significantly. It is best to turn your body keeping your head straight rather than turning your head sideways.

Here are a few general suggestions:

- When reporting information from the pews, if a microphone is available, please use it.
- You may have a booming voice but often not everyone can hear.
- Those using the hearing impaired device rely on the sound system to hear.
- Finally, the best method to ensure the best sound is to test the microphones with the person who will be speaking prior to a worship service or activity. While this is not always possible, using these guidelines will make a big difference in the sound quality. The sound operators thank you in advance for helping raise the quality of the sound at our worship service and other activities.

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP & EDUCATION INFORMATION

### SERMON & SCRIPTURE

- 9/5: "Building Towers" - Luke 14:25-33  
 9/12: "From the Outside" - I Timothy 1:12-17  
 9/19: "Summer's End" - Jeremiah 8:18-9:1  
 9/26: "The Other Lazarus" - Luke 16:19-31

### LECTORS

- 9/5: Theresa Child  
 9/12: Dave Green  
 9/19: Cynthia Gissin  
 9/26: Joan Bridges

*\*Interested in serving as Lector? Contact Joan Zakor.*

### GREETERS

- 9/5: Glen & Sally Child, Theresa Child  
 9/12: George & Eleanora Freas, Chan Ketchum  
 9/19: DJ & Sheri Geis, Beth Gardner  
 9/26: Dennis & Nancy Geis, Cynthia Gisson

### USHERS

Bob Bridges, Chuck and Mary Laufer, Bob Winnett

### SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

Glenn Child, Bill Andrews, Evan Schardt, Dylan Lease,  
 George Freas

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Pete Fenton, Cynthia Gissin, Mary Good, Keith Mason

### ADULT EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER OPENS WITH PRESBYTERIAN ORIGINS



Bower Hill Adult Education returns on Kick Off Sunday, Sept. 12 with a presentation on "Presbyterianism From John Knox Forward" by the Rev. Dr. John E. Wilson, professor of church history at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Wilson last year did a well-received three-week series on John Calvin at Bower Hill Church.

This year, he will continue on Sept. 19 with a discussion of "Worldliness" of the Church and the Spiritual Ideal" and conclude on Sept. 26 with "The Eucharist and Changing Understandings of it Since the Reformation."

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).

## MUSIC NOTES FROM JESSICA BAIER

**THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**  
**THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to Glenn Child, Bill Andrews, Dylan Lease, George Freas, and Evan Schardt for being our sound system operators during Worship! Please thank these men for taking the time to make sure all can be heard during services.

If you would like to join the team of sound board operators, please see Jessica or Glenn.

Thank you for all who participated in special music for the summer! Your talent during summer Worship was most appreciated.

Rehearsals are starting up soon, so mark your calendars! Please think about joining one of our ensembles in the fall! Rehearsals will resume the second week of September. If you don't have room in your schedule for weekly rehearsals but would still like to participate in special music, there is always room in Worship for a special anthem!



### Handbell Choir

The choir is for adults and high school students. The bell choir participates in worship once a month. **Rehearsals begin WEDNESDAY, September 8, at 6 p.m.**

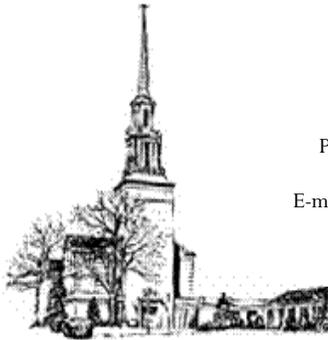
### Chancel Choir

The Chancel choir is for adults and high school students. The Chancel Choir participates each Sunday at the 9:30 am service. **Rehearsals begin WEDNESDAY, September 8, at 7:30 p.m.**

# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor

Company of Pastors  
The Rev. Grafton Eliason  
The Rev. John Yohe

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)

## 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**, 300 Kane Blvd. Room 314, Pittsburgh, PA 1524

**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

**Mike Bergen**, 227 Gilkeson Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228