

BOWER HILL NEWS



October 2010

*Jesus said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it?
It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden;
it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
Luke 13:18-19*

Dear Friends,

Have you noticed, this year, how eagerly the trees are welcoming the fall? They're in such a hurry to render up their leaves and close down shop for the winter! This summer was hard on them, with the constant light, the cloudless days, the hot temps, the weeks without rain. Our battered and beleaguered trees started to drop their withered leaves all the way back in mid-August. Now the colors are changing swiftly. By mid-October—usually peak season for leaf-peepers—our trees might be nearly bare. And yet, I'm an admirer of the trees, and so I like the fact that Jesus compares the life of faith to a small tree. It's a thing of humble origins that, when lovingly planted and carefully tended, provides rest and shelter for those seemingly insignificant birds.

On a recent trip to Jamaica—to attend my brother-in-law's wedding—I picked up a metalwork sculpture that made me think of this parable. Now it hangs in my office: a grayish-brown sheet of tin, a foot-and-a-half tall by eight inches wide. Some island artisan painstakingly fashioned that little piece of tin into a beautiful tapestry of birds resting in a bush. The branches of the little shrub twist gracefully, like swans' necks, culminating in big, fan-like leaves. And three carefully designed mourning doves are perched among the foliage, with raised wings and sharp beaks. To me, that piece of Jamaican metalwork art speaks of the refuge and rest that I find in my own life of faith and in the company of people who share it. It also speaks of the sense of well-being that I hope others will discover when they nest among the branches of our church.

So you and I are the birds, and our life of faith is the tree. Trees undergo seasons. They have rich years and lean years. They even change. Sometimes trees hold their leaves well into the fall, and sometimes they drop those leaves early. Sometimes whole branches die for lack of light, or too much light, or pollutants or pests.

And so, where am I going with all the tree-talk? Two things:

- 1.) Trees change according to circumstances and seasons, and so does faith. Like all living things, our understanding of God and life will grow and be transformed from one season to the next. So, in keeping with the autumn season, and in faithfulness to Jesus' parable, allow your faith to be transformed, perhaps even to the point of grasping old truths in new ways.
- 2.) From time to time, just let yourself rest in the branches. (And by "branches," I do mean pews...)

Serving together,

~Brian



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

SERVICE OF INSTALLATION



The Presbytery of Pittsburgh will install the Rev. Brian Snyder as pastor of Bower Hill Community Church on Sunday, Oct. 17, at our regular service of worship. The Rev. Beverly James, former interim pastor, will be preaching, and a light reception will follow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

The Christian Ed. Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with Sunday School duties on a rotating basis. This will permit our current teachers to join in worship periodically. The curriculum has been 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.

October 19th, Hostess: Mary Laufer

Same Kind of Different As Me by Ron Hall & Denver Moore

CUSTODIAN POSITION FILLED



Please extend a big welcome to our new custodian, Jim Askins. Jim has joined the staff at Bower Hill as our full-time custodian. He will be at the church on Sunday mornings during our service. Please introduce yourself to this important member of our staff. Jim's previous work experience qualifies him for our custodial position. Jim is married and the father of two active children and lives in Finleyville, Pa. He is very active in his community and is a volunteer firefighter/EMT.

WELCOME JIM!

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Please continue bringing your generous contributions of books to the church office, and your Mission Committee will make sure that they get to The Neighborhood Academy. Many thanks!

SENIOR MEN'S GROUP CONTINUES ON TUESDAY MORNINGS

Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Tuesday of each month through October. The next meeting is on October 5. The meetings will switch to the first Wednesday of the month beginning Nov. 3. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at King's Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike, near the end of Greentree 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.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS ALWAYS IN DEMAND

If you haven't done coffee hour hosting in a while, please consider signing up on the poster in the Friendship Room. 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 click on Ministries, click on Worship and you will find guidelines and complete instructions on how to do it. Donna Williams or Glenn Child will be happy to show you where everything is located. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to Aaron Jones, who won the Washington Idol competition this past July! Aaron has been with us since September of 2007 as a Section Leader/Soloist of the BHCC Chancel Choir.

Congratulations also go to member and BHCC Deacon Beth Wilson, who has recently completed the licensure process and is now a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.



The Mission and Outreach Committee invites you
to join them for an evening of fellowship!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

Sunday, October 10th

POTLUCK DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP AT 5:00 P.M.

PRESENTATION BY DONNA S. MARTSOLF, PH.D. AT 6:00 P.M.

Dr. Donna Martsolf is chair of the board of directors
at the Nursing School of the St. Croix Hospital in Leogane, Haiti,
and was in Haiti at the time of the earthquake.

For more information, please see this article:

http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/01/northeast_ohio_helps_haiti_thr.html

Child care and children's activities will be provided.

The meat course will be provided by the church.
Last names starting with A through F, please bring a side dish,
G through L bring a salad, and M through Z bring a dessert.

YOUTH GROUP SCOOP FROM YOUR DIRECTOR DAN GETKIN

I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be underway in this new year of youth activity at Bower Hill. It's wonderful to come to church knowing that we get to spend time together. Summer was a lot of fun, but now that all the traveling is over, I'm delighted to have everyone back in the same place.

We continue with a variation on last year's Sunday School programming which was geared towards 'Applied Faith.' Our students have been around long enough to understand the main themes and stories of Christianity, but now it is time to look at how all of that is relevant to their day-to-



Dan Getkin
can be reached
via email at
da@bhccml.com

day life. As they look at themselves and their limitless futures, how will faith play a role in their decisions? In September, we began by simply taking a few copies of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and cutting out articles that were interesting to them. Those clippings will form the basis of many lessons this fall. Together we'll address the news and then explore how ancient words can speak truth into modern times. It's going to be great.

Please pray for this ministry and that God will be in the midst of these conversations. When you see the youth, feel free to ask them what news stories have been on their minds!

GOOD COFFEE (COCOA AND TEAS!) FOR A GREAT CAUSE!



The Presbyterian Coffee Project, part of the *Enough for Everyone* program, supports farmers who grow coffee and tea in co-ops around the world by guaranteeing a set, fair price for their products. Equal Exchange coordinates the efforts of eight denominations. Bower Hill has participated

in this project for over six years in two ways: Fellowship Hour serves Fellowship Blend coffees and Fair Trade teas, and there is a monthly sale of coffees and teas after the worship service the first Sunday of the month. Members of the congregation can buy regular or decaf coffee, hot cocoa mix, and four kinds of teas (Green Tea, Earl Grey, English Breakfast, and now Red Tea!). After six years with no price increase, we find we need a small increase in costs. Coffee comes in 12 oz. bags for \$8.00, 12 oz. tins of cocoa are now \$6.00, and teas come in boxes of 25 teabags for \$4.00.

For those who prefer a blend besides the Organic Columbian we always have, you can now order a case (6 – 10 or 12 oz. bags) of your favorite blend at a discount (\$40.00 per case – one free bag!). Below are some of the current blends available. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please see Steve Boisvert at church or email him at sdboisvert@comcast.net. Orders are usually placed monthly fall through spring.

- **Organic French Roast: 6 – 10 oz.**
For those who favor the rich flavor of a dark roast coffee.
- **Organic Breakfast Blend: 6 – 12 oz.**
A blend of light and dark roasts with sparkling acidity and flavorful notes of floral, citrus and chocolate.
- **Organic Body Mind & Soul: 6 – 12 oz.**
This smooth and balanced blend of light and dark roasts perfectly captures flavorful notes of cocoa and vanilla.
- **Organic Ethiopian: 6 – 12 oz.**
From the Sidamo region of Ethiopia, this exotic and complex coffee has heavy body, gentle acidity and hints of vanilla, black pepper and raspberry.
- **Organic Love Buzz: 6 – 12 oz.**
A smorgasbord of roasts in a combination of Latin American beans. Feel the love!
- **Bright Day Brew: 6 – 12 oz.**
Just what you've been asking us for: a lighter roast packaged coffee!
- **Café Salvador: 6 – 12 oz.**
A full-bodied and smooth coffee grown by small farmer cooperatives in El Salvador.
- **Tanzanian Jubilee: 6 – 12 oz.**
Full-bodied and flavorful, this fairly traded coffee is grown by small farmers on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, East

MUSIC NOTES FROM JESSICA BAIER

World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on the first Sunday of the month, October 3. There is a wonderful feeling of unity to think about all of the congregations around the world that are sharing in this great feast. The following is the anthem that the Chancel Choir will be singing on this Sunday; it's an excellent representation of what we will be celebrating.



*We gather here in Jesus' name, His love is burning in
our hearts like living flame;
For through the loving Son the Father makes us one:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come,
share the Lord.*

*No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all
wrongs.*

*He joins us here, He breaks the bread, the Lord who
pours the cup is risen from the dead;
The One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come,
share the Lord.*

*We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
Though unseen He meets us here in the breaking of the
bread.*

*We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory
of the Lord and coming King;
Now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come,
share the Lord.*

Handbell Choir Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER WORSHIP & EDUCATION INFORMATION

SERMON & SCRIPTURE

10/3: World Communion Sunday
Rev. Grafton Eliason preaching
Peacemaking offering will be collected

10/10: "The Word Unchained"
2 Timothy 2:8-14, Rev. Brian Snyder

10/17: Service of Installation
"The Heart of Ministry"
Jeremiah 31:31-34 & 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Rev. Beverly James

The Presbytery of Pittsburgh will install Rev. Brian Snyder as pastor of Bower Hill Community Church on Sunday, Oct. 17, at our regular service of worship. The Rev. Beverly James, former interim pastor, will be preaching, and a light reception will follow.

10/24: "Two Went Up to Pray"
Luke 18:9-14, Rev. Brian Snyder

10/31: Stewardship Sunday/Reformation Sunday
"Sowing Seeds," Mark 4:26-32, Rev. Brian Snyder

LECTORS

10/3: Dan Getkin
10/10: Mary Beth Waine
10/17: Bill Cadwell
10/24: Kirsten Bruder
10/31: Kiri Rising

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

GREETERS

10/3: Dave & Nancy Green, Mary Good
10/10: Jean Grabow, Lynn Foltz, Dick Rothrock
10/17: Dave & Susan Hicks, Lucille Heckman
10/24: Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder, Nina Helbling
10/31: Woody & Barb Hughes, Christine Henney

USHERS

Marian Brannan, Jim Corbett, Lucille Heckman, Earl Kennedy

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

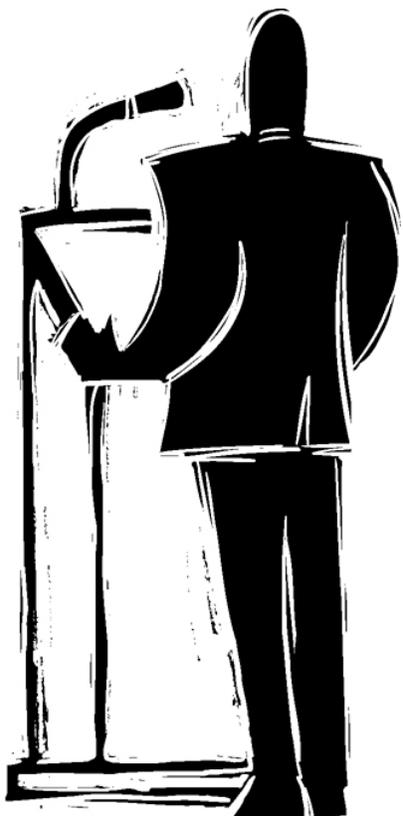
Glenn Child, Bill Andrews, Evan Schardt, Dylan Lease, George Freas

COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill & Nancy Andrews, Nina Helbling, Alan Hohlfelder, Rick & Pat Jacobs

ADULT EDUCATION IN OCTOBER COVERS BOOK OF CONFESSIONS QUESTIONS, INNOCENCE, RELIGION IN GOVERNMENT AND LIVING WITH QUESTIONS

Adult Education



Bower Hill Adult Education continues in October with topics of contemporary interest. On October 3, The Rev. Janet Edwards will discuss "The Heidelberg Catechism, What It's About, Why It's Important, and What We Need to Do." She will explain why this chapter from our Book of Confessions needs to be restored to one that more faithfully reflects the original German text and the first Latin translation of it and what it says about gender orientation.

On October 10, we will have a discussion of The Innocence Project at Point Park University. Staff member Marie Dorego will discuss the school's Journalism Department project to investigate wrongful criminal convictions.

There will be no adult education program on Sunday, October 17, because of the installation of The Rev. Brian Snyder that morning. On Sunday, October 24, Dave Green will review former Newsweek Editor John Meacham's book "American Gospel: God, The Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation."

Our pastor, The Rev. Brian Snyder will present an episode from the video series "Living the Questions" on Sunday, October 31.

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.

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
www.bhccml.com



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

RETURN SERVICE

OUR CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor
br@bhccml.com

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

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

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