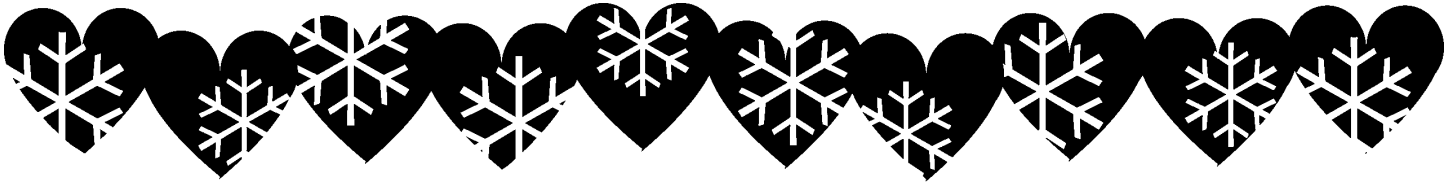


# BOWER HILL NEWS



February 2011

~In Between Times~

As months go, February has an identity crisis. Most people don't really know what to do with it. It has no big holidays to speak of. The weather is bitterly cold. And it really is "the dead of winter." Several Christmas carols claim that the Nativity took place "in the deep midwinter," but they only say it for poetic effect. Winter doesn't technically even start until four days before Christmas! Aside from avid skiers, most of us begrudgingly endure February in the long wait for spring. And while few of us would willingly "wish away" any of the time that we're given, February can feel a little bit like crossing the Midwest en route to the Rockies: You pick up your speed, turn up the radio, and try to stay awake.

Of course, February does have a few things going for it. In the United States, it's "Black History Month," chosen because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in its icy grip. And of course, February can boast a couple of minor holidays: Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. (The former is only celebrated by couples in love, and the latter is only celebrated by furniture stores and possibly...presidents?) Mardi Gras is usually in February, but not this year. A somber Ash Wednesday service usually inaugurates the season of Lent sometime in February, but again, not this year. No, February 2011 is a true "in between time." And what do we do with in between times?

Well, we cherish them. Just like any other season of life, we savor these in between times, knowing that every new day is unique and precious. We enjoy these times and search their moments and their hours for traces of the Divine Presence. Think of all the living that takes place while we're not looking! Think how quickly children grow. How quietly they're transformed before our eyes, and yet if we see them each day the changes go almost unnoticed. Some of life's finest moments are squeezed into the in between times, with no holidays to celebrate and no fine weather to enjoy.

In February, the days begin to lengthen, and the sunlight comes in at new angles, penetrating those long-dark corners, chasing away old shadows, casting the same old world in a whole new light. The light of late winter touches old situations with fresh, new perspectives. It can even help you to re-see the old-seeming people and the same old places of your life. February is here, with its new radiance and new vision.

It's still winter, as it will be for a good long while. But the world is rolling back around to the light. Ah, light! You can turn your face away from it. You can avoid it, but it always comes rolling back around, in time. Whatever in between times you face in your own life, face them with courage and expectation, for all life's seasons are sacred.

Happy February,

~Brian



## COMMUNITY NOTES

Want to be included on this page?  
 Submissions are due the 15th of every month  
 for the next month's publication.

### THE GREEN GROCERS

The Green Grocers of BHCC, who deliver produce from the Village Square Giant Eagle in Bethel/ Upper St. Clair to Miryam's House each Sunday, are looking for an individual or family to assume responsibility for the fifth Sunday of the month (four times per year). A station wagon or SUV is needed to transport the produce to Miryams, which is located downtown near the new Consol Energy Arena. It takes less than two hours to accomplish this important task and is a very worthwhile experience. If you think this would be your type of outreach opportunity or want more information, please contact Dave Hicks at 412-833-7753 (home) or 412-427-6606 (cell) or via email at [davehhicks@yahoo.com](mailto:davehhicks@yahoo.com)

### SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CONTINUES

Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Wednesday of each month through April. The next meeting is on February 2. The group convenes at 8 a.m. at Kings 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.

### FAITH IN ACTION: SPRING 2011

Plans are underway for FIA, Spring 2011! Five projects are in the works for our upcoming FIA (Faith in Action). Mark your calendars for the weekend of April 30th and May 1st! Check out the opportunities that may be in store for you!

- Restoring a playground destroyed by arson on the North Side (Saturday, 4/30 and/or Sunday, 5/1)
- Cooking and serving for friends of Light of Life (Saturday afternoon and evening, 4/30)
- Creating a garden pathway in the North Side/Pittsburgh Project Pathway, brought to us by our own Dan Getkin. (Saturday, 4/30 and/or Sunday, 5/1)
- Making fleece blankets for Miryams/Bethlehem Haven/St. Clair Hospital's oncology unit (Sunday, 5/1)
- Planting, mulching and beautifying our own BHCC as a service to those friends who use our church (Sunday, 5/1)

### 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.

#### FEBRUARY

*Breakfast with Buddha* by Roland Merullo  
 Hostess Debbie Boisvert

#### MARCH

*Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay  
 Hostess TBA

### SPRING BELL CONCERT

The Handbell Choir has been invited to participate in the Spring Concert Series at the Coraopolis United Methodist Church. We will be performing Wednesday, March 30, at 12:00 noon. Please mark your calendars so you can attend! More details will follow in the March newsletter.

<b>Handbell Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>Wednesdays 7:30 p.m.</b>

### THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS.

We are Growing! It's both a blessing and a problem. We need more teachers...that's good! We don't have enough teachers..that's bad! Our church is growing and we may soon be adding another Sunday School class, so we are looking for volunteers to teach on a rotating basis. You don't have to be a professional educator and it doesn't matter if you are young, old or in between. Our children love to learn and need adults to guide them. Our curriculum is fun and teacher-friendly, with easy to follow guidelines and lesson plans. Please take just a minute to consider helping us. We need you! If you would like more information, please call or email Susan Hicks. 412-833-7753 or [susiebhicks@yahoo.com](mailto:susiebhicks@yahoo.com)

## TNA: THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY , UPDATES AND NEWS

During January, twenty-four boxes of books were delivered to The Neighborhood Academy. We have been asked to delay further book donations until September, as they are still in their old facility and are running out of shelf space. They will be moving in August and are also concerned about any added moving costs. If possible, please hold on to your books and we will begin our donations again in September. If you need to donate now, you can still deliver books to the church to be stored. All of the students and staff at The Neighborhood Academy cannot thank you enough for all of your gift cards and book donations.

We continue to support The Neighborhood Academy (TNA) in many ways, and believe this school to be eminently worthy of our time and treasure. Here are two other ways to help TNA that are totally painless:

1.) TNA a part of Giant Eagle's Apples for Students Program. You can enroll your Giant Eagle Advantage Card at [www.gianteagle.com/about/apples-for-students](http://www.gianteagle.com/about/apples-for-students) using TNA's school ID:5244. Every time

you grocery shop at Giant Eagle, you will help TNA earn new technology equipment and you still get your food and fuel perks!

2.) Here is another way that members can help The Neighborhood Academy. Add the GOOD SEARCH toolbar to your browser tool bar and use it instead of Google or Yahoo for all of your web searches. Each time you do a search, money will be donated to The Neighborhood Academy. Just go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/> then at the bottom of the Good Search home page under "Never Miss A Donation" and click on the "Download Toolbar" button. Select "Neighborhood Academy" then it will download. Once installed, just use Good Search for all of your searches. Now, how easy is that?

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND PARTICIPATION!

### ANOTHER INSPIRING CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

Once again our church was transformed into the city of Bethlehem during our Family Service on Christmas Eve. Youth director Dan Getkin led the service as our teenagers read the story of the birth of baby Jesus. Twenty-two of our little ones portrayed Mary, Joseph, the Wisemen, Shepherds, Sheep, Camels, Donkeys, Doves and Angels. Each and every one of them was wonderful and all in the congregation were inspired.

Many thanks to Josie Sheldon who orchestrated and directed the program, Dan Getkin for his youth leadership and Jessica Baier for her musical genius. The organizers were Dawn Kane, Kiri Rising, Carolyn Westerhoff and Christie Westerhoff who got those costumes together and worked so closely with all of our little participants. Our eloquent youth readers were Jaime Lease, Tyler Kane, Abby Waine and Nick Kane.

A very special thanks to all of the parents who gave their children this wonderful experience: Bruder, Geis, Gibbons, Harris, Hicks, Holliday, Rising, Saba, Salvante, Snyder, Westerhoff.

This service warmed our hearts and our souls...so we will do it again next year with even more children!

*Thank  
You*

### MANY THANKS FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Thanks to all of our members who participated in the many Angel Trees we had available this holiday season. Generous, as always, we provided outreach in the following ways:

- The SHIM trees (really ficus trees) were an emergency outreach that occurred in November. We provided gifts for approximately 50 people, young and old, boys and girls, men and women. Thank you.
- \$830 was collected for the girls at Heikma Place. Thank you. Thank you.
- 20 more boxes of books and over \$350 worth of gift cards to local bookstores were donated to The Neighborhood Academy. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
- Several boxes of CDs, DVDs and other needed items have been taken to the Operation Troop Appreciation headquarters. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
- As reported earlier, the children of our congregation collected over \$120 in their Wishing Well. It came to our attention that patrons of the Produce to the People program were in need of metal rolling carts to transport their food. After talking to the kids about the needs of our community (the **homeless**, the **hungry** and those who **help** others) and the money they collected, they agreed to use their collection to purchase five metal carts for Produce to the People shoppers! How proud, how awesome, how generous, how faithful our little ones are! Thanks for your continued support, as the well will remain indefinitely to collect for more friends in need.

# 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  
REQUESTED

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor  
[br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com)

Company of Pastors  
Rev. Grafton Eliason  
Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen  
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)

Jim Askins, 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

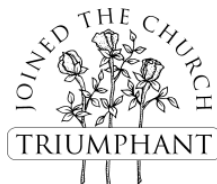
**Matt Dunfee**, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085

**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

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



**Jack Brannan**

December 17, 1923 — January 16, 2011