

LENTEN THOUGHTS

He sternly ordered them not to tell anyone, saying,
"The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected, and be killed,
and on the third day be raised..."
And when the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.
Luke 9:21, 51

Dear Friends,

As we go into the Lenten Season—which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9—I recall an episode of that old TV show from the early 1990s, *Northern Exposure* (my favorite television series to date). This episode focused on Ed Chigliak, a young Native American Indian who was always searching for his roots. In his attempt to get closer to the customs of his ancestors, Ed filmed an elderly Indian who carved traditional Alaskan "duck flutes" out of wood. The overarching theme of the episode was: Nothing lasts forever...but a moment in time is enough.

Ed was in a gloomy mood as he filmed the last practitioner of a nearly lost art. Someday, when the aged duck flute carver dies, there will be no one left to carry on the ancient Native American trade. The haunting, wooden-pipe sounds of the Indian duck flute will fade away forever from the forests of the Pacific Northwest. And so, Ed asked the duck flute carver, "Doesn't it make you sad to know that after you, there will be no more duck flutes?" Of course, Native American characters on *Northern Exposure* are always fonts of wisdom and calm. And the old carver replied, with unruffled good cheer, "No. Things are always getting gone from the world,

even beautiful things. The mastodons are gone. Whole tribes of Indians are gone, with their folklore and languages. There are more things gone from the world than things that are. Duck flutes are nice, but why should they be any different?"

You've probably attended Ash Wednesday services where the pitch was decidedly gloomy. The minister smears ashes on your forehead and

their passage in this world has had an impact, and the world has become what it is—in part—because of all the things that went before. Even things that "are no more" live on in new forms and ways. The mastodons have ended up in the gas tanks of our cars! And the duck flutes inspired a whole genre of "new age music." Life, death, new life. Mastodons and duck flutes have changed the world forever, and those things now gone continue to live on with different names and in different forms.

**Nothing lasts forever...
but a moment in time is enough.**

I'm touched by this idea that "a moment in time is enough," that it's wiser to let things go when the time has come. Such wisdom is a rare find in TV sitcoms. But in this season of Lent, let us remember too that "getting gone" is not the end of the story.

intones, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Not exactly an uplifting sentiment! But it's a good way to kick off Lent, a season of soul-searching, and introspection, and perhaps even penitence. And yet, in all truth, the ashes are only a small part of a much longer story on our journey toward Easter.

In God's economy, there always comes a day of new life, rebirth, the phoenix rising from the ashes, the Crucified bursting from the tomb. This is the way that God has ordained for all things, the old, old cycle: life, death, new life. Whatever changes you face in the days ahead, don't forget the hope of Easter.

Blessings to you in this Lenten season.

Your Pastor,
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

JOIN US FOR ALL-AGES GAME NIGHT!

Saturday, March 5, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite board games and card games. This event is for all ages, and everyone is welcome. If you would like to bring snacks or soft drinks, no one will complain!

SPRING LUNCHEON

Save the date! Don't miss this special event, ladies! Join your Bower Hill Church friends for fellowship, food and fun at the Spring Luncheon following the worship service and adult education on Sunday April 10. Mark your calendar today! Ladies of all ages are welcome!

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 March 2. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at Kings 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.

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. Look to the bulletin for info on upcoming hostesses.

March 15	<i>Sarah's Key</i> by Tatiana de Rosnay Hostess: Nina Helbling
April 26	<i>American Lion</i> by Jon Meacham
May 17	<i>Cutting for Stone</i> by Abraham Verghese
June 21	<i>Jim the Boy</i> by Tony Earley
July 19	<i>Major Pettigrew's Last Stand</i> by Helen Simonson

Come and join a lively discussion. All are welcome.

SPRING BELL CONCERT

The Handbell Choir will be giving a concert on Wednesday, March 30, from noon until 12:30 p.m. This concert will be at the Coraopolis Methodist Church (1205 Ridge Road, Coraopolis, 15108) as part of their Lenten Concert Series. We are performing several arrangements of hymns and spirituals. Please come to support the Handbell Choir!

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **Sunday, March 13**, 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.

EASTER LILIES OFFERED

Bower Hill will once again offer the congregation the opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily to be displayed on Easter Sunday in memory or in honor of loved ones. Money will be collected after worship on Sunday from March 20th through April 10th. Look for prices and order forms in the April newsletter.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

*If you sent a card, an email or a note;
 gave a us a call or visited
 – thank you –
 for hugs, a meal, a prayer.
 We are truly blessed to a part
 of the wonderful Bower Hill church family.
 Our heartfelt thanks,
 Bob and Joan Bridges*

*Dear Bower Hill Community Church,
 You made a devastating experience more bearable. You warmed our family's spirits. You shared with us a Jack you understood far better than we ever knew.*

With humility and love,

Marian, James, Shamus and Casey Brannan

MARCH WORSHIP INFORMATION

WORSHIP PLANS

March 6: Transfiguration Sunday (Communion)
 "It's All Downhill from Here." Rev. Brian Snyder preaching
 Text: Mark 9:2-9

March 13: First Sunday of Lent
 "If." Rev. Brian Snyder preaching
 Text: Matt 4:1-11.

March 20: Second Sunday of Lent:
 Rev. Sheldon Sorge,
 Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery, preaching.

March 27: Third Sunday of Lent
 "Atonement." Rev. Brian Snyder preaching
 Text: Romans 5:1-11

LENTEN EVENING PROGRAMS



An Ash Wednesday service kicks off the Lenten Season on Wednesday, March 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel. On Thursday evenings in Lent, you are invited to take part in simple potluck dinners followed by brief services of worship. Dinners will begin at 6:15 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. See the weekly bulletin for details.

ADULT EDUCATION: CONTINUATION OF "LIVING THE QUESTIONS," PLUS RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS AND PRESBYTERY

- Pastor Brian Snyder will lead the fourth discussion from the series "Living the Questions" on Sunday, March 6. The topic is Restoring Relationships.
- Religious freedom will be discussed by American Civil Liberties Union Pittsburgh Chapter Staff Attorney Sara Rose on March 13.
- Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery (i.e. presbytery executive) The Rev. Sheldon Sorge will discuss social justice in the presbytery on March 20. He will also be preaching that morning.
- A program on immigration is planned for March 27. Jamie Englert of Jewish Family and Children's Service and Michael Horvath, US Immigration Service officer, will discuss current immigration issues and practices.

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.

COMMUNION SERVERS

Kirsten Bruder, DJ Geis, Nancy Geis, Keith Mason,
 Lynn Wohleber and Glenna Creaves Karkaria

GREETERS

March 6: Bob & Betty Winnett, Betty Mancini
March 13: George & Eleanora Freas, Dottie Carter
March 20: Curt & Kathy Philson, Cynthia Gissin
March 27: Linda Szyslowski, Margie Sewall, Ginny Starr

LECTORS

March 6: Dan Getkin
March 13: Mary Beth Waine
March 20: Jason Rising
March 27: Alan Hohlfelder

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

Glenn Child, Bill Andrews

USHERS

Jason Rising, Mary Beth Waine, Dave Stewart, Keith Mason



Welcome New Members!

On January 30, 2011, the following people were welcomed into membership:

- Richard & Nancy Salvante and their children Madelyn, Julian and Gavin
- Maria Sherman
- Edgar & Sarah Steinmark
- Confirmand Amanda Vosburgh



We Preach Love, ...Not Guilt

At Bower Hill Church, we believe that religion ought to be about fulfillment ...about the inspiration to live life well. Church should stimulate your mind, not cloud it. We welcome diversity, provide worship that enriches, discussion that emboldens and service opportunities that satisfy. We are a church for thinkers and doers. Isn't that where you want to be?

*Growing
Together...* *in Faith,
Reason,
Service
and Love*

**BOWER
HILL** Community
Church

(Presbyterian USA)

70 Moffett Street,
Just off Bower Hill Road
in Mt. Lebanon 15243
412 561 4114

www.bhccml.com

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Communication Committee is pleased to announce that a new advertising campaign will begin this spring. As members of Bower Hill Community Church, we know how unique our church home is. But what does the community think of us, if they even realize we're here?

For years our communication with the community has consisted of free "blurbs" in the Almanac and other local papers about upcoming events such as adult ed classes or music concerts. Sometimes we promoted events on the local cable station such as the Youth Spaghetti Dinners and Vacation Bible School. Our paid advertising has been mostly limited to Christmas and Easter ads and ads for Faith in Action.

Now is the time to let Mount Lebanon, Scott Township, Upper St. Clair and other surrounding communities know that we're here and who we are.

To that end, over the past several years the Communication Committee (Jim Burke, Glenn Child, Theresa Child, Cynthia Gissin, Dave Green, Phil Johnson, LuAnn McNickle, Chuck Prine and Brian Snyder) have been wrestling with what message we want to send and how to get that message to the community.

The first tangible result of our effort was the development of the new slogan in 2009:

Growing Together in Faith, Reason, Service and Love

We held many brainstorming sessions both before and after the development of the slogan. During these sessions we drew three conclusions:

1. **We need to have a consistent format and message in all communications both external and internal**
2. **We need to do more paid advertising**
3. **We need an expanded and consistent schedule for advertising**

It was decided that in addition to paid advertising for events, we need to do some advertising to remind the people of the community we're here and to inform them about what differentiates us from other churches. Because a consistent format is as important as the content of these ads, a new logo was created by Jim Burke.

The first of these ads is included in this article. It is scheduled to run in the April edition of Mt. Lebanon Magazine and soon after that in the Almanac. The second ad will run during May.

Over the next few months you can expect to hear a lot about the Communication Committee and what we are doing. Some of our future plans include:

- **Revising all internal communication (newsletters, bulletins) and external communication (visitor materials and items in the pews)**
- **Redesigning the web site**
- **Creating a Facebook page**
- **The expansion of advertising for events other than Christmas and Easter (such as music events)**

There is much work left to be done by the Communication Committee. In the future we will be looking for support from other committees and members of the church. It is our hope that you will be just as excited as we are to let the world know how special Bower Hill is.

DON'T GO TO CHURCH, BE THE CHURCH: FIA COMING IN APRIL



FAITH IN ACTION: 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!

- 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 children and adults served by Interfaith Hospitality Network. (Saturday, 4/30 and Sunday, 5/1)
- Planting, mulching and beautifying our own BHCC as a service to those friends who use our church (Sunday, 5/1)



DON'T GO TO HAITI FOR LENT

The week before we Don't Go To Church, Bower Hill Community Church will be joining a team from the Fuller Center for Housing who will be building houses in Haiti. A team led by Ron and Gloria Greenwald of San Francisco will be arriving in Haiti on April 24th and will work in partnership with Grace International to build duplexes in a development near Leogone. The plan is to build 69 housing units to start and to build up to 90 if possible. Here is the website for more information.

<http://www.fullercenter.org/global-builders/haiti>

This team will leave Haiti on May 1st which is our "Don't Go To Church" Sunday. While we are part of the team, we won't be physically going. We will be joining them virtually. Emily Kerr will be our email contact. She will forward all emails we receive from the other team members to us and she will send information about us to the rest of the team. Our contributions to the team will be the following:

- We will raise \$5000 during Lent as a donation to the Fuller Center's work in Haiti. This money will allow more local workers to be hired to work on these houses and will allow more building supplies to be purchased. Since each house requires about 500 concrete blocks, we will be asking for donations to sponsor these blocks at \$10 per block. To track our progress toward our goal, we will be using Leggos to build a model house, one Leggo block per sponsored concrete block. We will be collecting for this project during Lent which begins on March 9th.
- We will set up a schedule during the week of April 24th to pray for the members of the team who are going. Working in Haiti is challenging and our prayers would be appreciated.
- While in Haiti the team will be visiting an orphanage. We have been invited by the Greenwalds to participate in this visit in a special way that is a secret to everyone in our congregation except our children. Stay tuned to learn more about this contribution from our kids.



SPRING FLEA MARKET: SATURDAY APRIL 2ND.

Items can be brought in through Sunday, March 27th. Please do not include clothes. All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday before or after worship.

If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise, leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

2011 SPRING FLEA MARKET: HELPERS NEEDED

Flea Market Helpers Get First Crack at All Merchandise!

There will be lots of opportunities to help out with the set-up of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale. Here's what's happening:

Wednesday March 30th 7:00 p.m.-Bringing Down the Boxes

We'll bring the boxes down from the loft to Fellowship Hall.

Thursday March 31st 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.-Unpacking the Boxes

Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout. We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all. Snacks will be provided, but if you're planning on staying all day you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

Friday April 1st 9:00am-???

Typically we get most of the unpacking done on Thursday, so Friday will probably be an early day.

Saturday April 2nd 8:00am-3:00pm-Sale Day

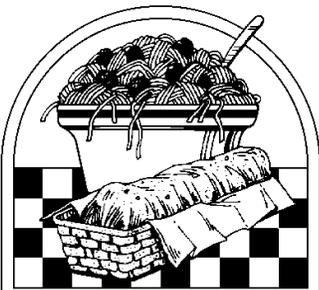
The Flea Market opens at 8:30am and we usually have some shoppers arriving early. We'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

We also need a few bakers to make some items for the snack bar. We're looking for mini muffins, cookies, brownies, or rice krispie treats. Please sign up in the Narthex or let Theresa know what you are making. Please bring all baked goods to the kitchen Friday, April 1st, sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT THERESA CHILD AT 412-429-9519 OR AT TREETOOWON@YAHOO.COM.

YOUTH NEWS FROM DAN GETKIN

We are Montana bound! After much research and conversation, our destination for the 2011 Work Trip has finally been decided. On June 26th, we will be in Busby, Montana, to do home repair on a Native American reservation. Sometimes it is hard to ask you to help us fundraise for trips when we have so few details to provide, but that apparently has not been a problem for this congregation! Thank you for your gracious support of our hoagie sale. I am humbled by the overwhelming number of sandwiches that we ordered this year. Now our attention will turn to the Spaghetti Dinner, which tends to be our last major fundraiser for our trips. Please mark down Sunday, March 20th, on your calendars. We are excited to make dinner for you all that night. Please pray for our trip as the plans continue to be made, but also for the people of Busby. We hope that during our time there, God will show up in a big way for our students to witness. Blessings to you!

SPAGHETTI DINNER**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Bower Hill Youth Group is eager to announce their 2011 Spaghetti Dinner with proceeds benefitting the Work Trip! Please join us on Sunday, March 20th, from 5:00 – 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.

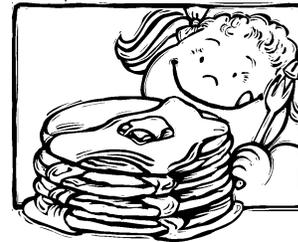
Tickets will be on sale in March via the youth, church office or Youth Director. We hope you will consider joining us for dinner that evening! For further information, contact Youth Director Dan Getkin at da@bhccml.com.

FROM SHIM: SOUTH HILLS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES**Afterschool Volunteers Needed!**

South Hills Interfaith Ministries is looking for volunteers for an Afterschool Program in Baldwin-Whitehall that works with a multi-cultural population grades K-5. Shifts are available M-F 4:30 -7:00 p.m. All volunteers must have Act 33/34 clearances. Call SHIM Program Director – Doris Nagel at 412-854-9120 ext. 20.

SHIM Food Pantry needs your assistance. During the month of December 2010, SHIM provided food, clothing, holiday gifts and utility assistance to 395 families in the South Hills. Requests for help continue to rise. It is only through the generosity of the community that these families are served. Monetary or food contributions can be dropped off at SHIM - M-F 9-4 at 5301 Park Ave., Bethel Park.

32nd Annual Holocaust Observance, “Words & Music: Saving the Voices”, Sunday April 10, 7:30 p.m. – Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Bower Hill Road. All are invited to attend.

PANCAKE SUPPER

BHCC-Sponsored Troop 28 will hold a Pancake Supper Tuesday, March 8th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Tickets

\$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children and Scout Youth in uniform. Tickets will be sold after worship on Sundays, by any Troop 28 Scout.

Contact the office for details.

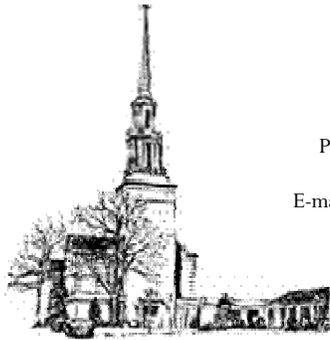
Menu

Pancakes and sausage, apple sauce, lemonade, coffee, tea and all the butter and syrup you like!

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen
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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