

A SEASON FOR NEW LIFE

*“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.”*

*Luke 24:1-3*

Dear Friends,

This is a day for new life. It’s a season for morning birdsong, the sun’s life-giving rays, an occasional rain shower. The world is waking up from its long sleep. It’s a fun time to be a new homeowner, especially in a house that’s seen 145 years of residents before us. In our yard, in places where we never planted, there are snowdrops and daffodils sending their shoots through a matted layer of last year’s oak leaves. The green looks feeble amid winter’s debris. The slender young stalks seem vulnerable. But don’t underestimate their strength! Theirs is the power of new life. They’ve been coming back each spring for more decades than most of us. Though they look fragile, these delicate flowers will outlive us, as long as there’s water and light.

Up in the Allegheny National Forest, the abandoned village of McKinley can only be found in the spring, when rows of ancient daffodils and jonquils—antique hybrids—rise to mark the places where houses once stood. But in summer, McKinley is just a broad clearing.

I don’t know who planted the early bloomers that grace our old farmyard. Some long ago farmer’s

wife, perhaps. She raised her children, baked her bread, sewed her family’s clothes, and washed and mended them. She did her planting, and her hoeing, and her canning. And in her spare time, she put in a few spring bulbs, so that even amid a life of toil, she too might have something beautiful. I wonder if she ever stopped to think that the things she planted would outlive her and continue to bloom for decades to come.

news may strip us of our humanity, a little bit each day, eroding our compassion. This world may overwhelm us and make us feel helpless or anonymous. This world may steal our identity and teach us to live for the lies of selfish attainment and acquisition. But life wins in the end. And we have a choice to make: We can choose to walk in life-affirming ways, or we can choose the dark parade of fears and lies.

**Each season has its purpose  
and every holiday has its meaning,  
but Easter is the finest.**

**Easter’s message is that life will always  
win...in the end.**

Did she ever stop to think that one day in the distant future, when the suburbs had engulfed her farm and strangers occupied her home, her bulbs would still be blooming?

Each season has its purpose and every holiday has its meaning, but Easter is the finest. Easter’s message is that life will always win...in the end. This world may wear us down with its crushing duties, and empty demands, and mind-numbing routines. This world’s endless bad

I’m glad we’re doing “Faith in Action Sunday” this year on the Second Sunday of Eastertide (April 30 & May 1). You and I can’t bloom like daffodils, but our witness to new life can be just as visible and hopeful. We’ll have an opportunity to restore a ruined playground in an impoverished neighborhood, build a garden path for urban gardeners, cook a meal or make a blanket for the disadvantaged. Ours is the power of new life. The work of our hands will outlive us, too. If we sow things of beauty and acts of hope into the soil of our living, then we too will plant a better world. Like that long-ago farmer’s wife, we can touch the future. Life wins in the end. This Easter season is about life, so live joyfully. Live intentionally and attentively. Live fully, for “Christ is risen.”

Happy Easter,  
~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

### SPRING LUNCHEON



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Spring Luncheon will be held Sunday, April 10, immediately following Adult Education. Women and girls of all ages are welcome. Join your friends and neighbors for fellowship and a delicious lunch! Please RSVP to the church office.

If you would like to bring a dish to share, please contact Kathy Philson at 412 531-7539 or [KathyGRB@aol.com](mailto:KathyGRB@aol.com). Don't miss the fun!

### SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CONTINUES ON 1ST WED.



Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Wednesday of each month through April. The next meeting is on April 6. The group convenes at 8 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. The meeting day will switch to Tuesday on May 3 and will continue on Tuesdays through October.

### 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 through April 10th. To order, please return the enclosed form with payment to the church office.

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holocaust Observance, "Words & Music: Saving the Voices"**, Sunday April 10, 2011, 7:30 p.m. – Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church on Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh. All are invited to attend.

### 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.

April 26 *American Lion* by Jon Meacham  
 Hostess: Nancy Green

May 17 *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese  
 Hostess: Betsy Hohlfelder

June 21 *Jim the Boy* by Tony Earley

July 19 *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*  
 by Helen Simonson

Come and join a lively discussion. All are welcome.

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **Sunday, April 10**, 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.

### HEKIMA PLACE BENEFIT

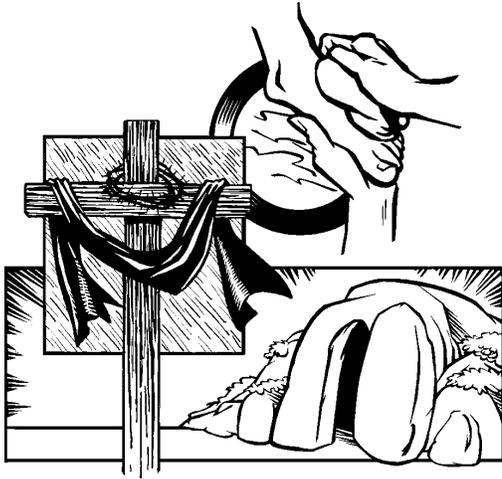
Hekima Place will hold a fundraising event at the National Aviary on Wednesday, April 13th, to honor Kate Fletcher and celebrate the completion of its new home. The event will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include wine, beer, hors d'oeuvres, African drumming and dancing, and an opportunity to tour the Aviary. Tickets are \$75 each or \$125 if you would like to be a patron of the event. See Rick or Pat Jacobs or Alan Hohlfelder if you would like to purchase tickets. Registration can also be accomplished on-line at: [www.hekimaplace.org](http://www.hekimaplace.org)

## APRIL WORSHIP INFORMATION

**Lenten Study and Worship** continues in April and takes place in the first floor lounge each Thursday evening in Lent. We begin with a simple potluck dinner and fellowship at 6:15 p.m., followed by a “blended” worship service / Bible study by the fireside. Each evening will feature a piano and violin duet with Jessica Baier and Rich Salvante.

On 4/7, bring an ethnic dish and read Mark 14:66-72.

On 4/14, bring anything at all and read Mark 15:1-15.



**Maundy Thursday, April 21:** A Passover Seder worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 22:** The traditional Good Friday worship service of “The Seven Words” will take place at Mt. Lebanon First United Methodist Church from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m. BHCC will be responsible for leading worship in word and music from 1:20 until 1:45 p.m.. The theme of our portion of the service is taken from Matthew 27:45-50, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”

**Easter Sunday, April 24:** Easter breakfast will take place in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. Please watch the announcement section of your weekly bulletin for details. Worship is at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

### COMMUNION SERVERS

#### GREETERS

**April 3:** Dennis & Nancy Geis, Judy Delestienne

**April 10:** Jim & Bev Burke, Dawn Kane

**April 17:** Dave & Nancy Green, Nina Helbling

**April 24:** Glenn & Sally Child, Theresa Child

#### LECTORS

**April 3:** Dave Hicks

**April 10:** Josie Sheldon

**April 17:** Rich Salvante

**April 24:** Dave Green

#### SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

Glenn Child, Bill Andrews

#### USHERS

Volunteers are being contacted  
by Bob Winnett.

See Bob to join the April 2011 team  
for one or more Sundays!

### APRIL ADULT EDUCATION STUDIES CIVIL WAR SPIRITUALITY AND TEEN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

The Rev. Ann Morris will lead a two-week series on the Civil War and spirituality. April marks 150 years since the beginning of the Civil War. Ms. Morris will discuss the role of army chaplains on April 3 and how they helped troops cope with homesickness and garner courage for mortal combat.

On April 10, Ms. Morris will explore the role of religious institutions to eradicate slavery in the USA. She will trace the crusade against slavery to the Second Great Awakening that began at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

On April 17<sup>th</sup> Alison Bryant and our own Sally Child from Gateway Rehabilitation Center will be talking about the impact of substance abuse on our youth in today’s culture and the role of family, community and church in prevention, intervention and treatment.

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).

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

### Faith in Action/Project Details

A brief, informal worship service will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 1, to kick off our day of outreach. We are NOT going to church, we will BE the church!

#### 1. Making Blankets for Children and Adults Served by Interfaith Hospitality Network - April 30 and May 1



Place: Lounge of Bower Hill Church  
Time: Saturday 9:00 – 3:00, Sunday 10:00—3:00.

Come and go as you are able; bring a bag lunch if staying during meal time.  
Contact: Joan McAnulty

No sewing skills needed

Participants: Ages 8 years and older

Materials needed: loving hands, pins, scissors and a willing heart to help others.

Using provided kits, we will cut and tie to make 44 blankets for children and adults served by Interfaith Hospitality Network.

#### 2. Pittsburgh Project Pathway - April 30 and May 1



Place: Directions to come.  
Time: We will be working at the Pittsburgh Project on both days from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. to build a trail that connects the urban gardens with the main facilities of the Pittsburgh Project.  
Contact: Alan Hohlfelder

This activity will allow the Pittsburgh Project to more effectively provide fresh produce to its users as well as offer a safer route between the two points. We will provide tools for the work which will include clearing and grubbing of the trail to remove undergrowth and small trees, and rough grading of the trail. Work is recommended for Jr. High and older. Work that remains unfinished during the FIA weekend may allow for future BHCC work opportunities during the summer. We still need to review if they will provide lunch both days.

#### 3. Light of Life Cooking/Serving - April 30



Place: BHCC kitchen and Light of Life Mission on the North Side. Directions to come.  
Time: 1:00 p.m. cooking at Bower Hill, 3:00 -7:00 p.m. serving at Light of Life  
Contact: Please call Dave Hicks @ 412-833-7753 if you can help during one or both time slots.

We will cook and serve dinner for 150-200 people at Light of Life Mission on the North Side. We will prepare the dinner at the church starting about 1:00 p.m and will leave for the mission at about 3:00 p.m.. We will serve folks who are residents of the mission as well as people from the community. We should be back to the church by 7:00 p.m. We will need six people to prepare the meal at the church and about the same number to serve.

#### 4. Beautiful BHCC - May 1



Place: The grounds of BHCC  
Time: Immediately following kick-off service until noon.  
Contact: Steve Boisvert

Just as we welcome the arrival of spring, so does the landscaping around BHCC. Unlike us, however, BHCC needs help putting its best face forward to welcome members and visitors alike to worship, service and fellowship. On Faith in Action Day, we'll lend a hand and spruce up the grounds around the church. We'll refresh mulch, weed and pick up debris. It may not be glamorous, but it will make a huge difference in the first impression visitors have of our church home and bring a smile to members young and "experienced." So, all ages are welcome to bring gloves, small hand tools, rakes and enthusiasm and, when you leave around noon, you'll know our beloved church home is putting its best face forward thanks to your efforts.

#### 5. Providence Connections Playground Renovation - April 30 and May 1



Place: Directions to come.  
Time: We will be working at the renovation on both days from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.  
Contact: Kiri Rising

We are helping to restore the toddler / preschool playground area that was destroyed by the fire. Bring a bag lunch. Currently, the restoration contractors are replacing a retaining wall that was damaged. Hopefully in the next few weeks they will install the new playground equipment and surface, as well as replace the fence. (There may be more projects that come up between now and then. We're not sure in what condition the area around the playground will be after the construction is finished. It may need some TLC.) With all of that said, here are some of the projects that they may need our help on the Faith in Action work days:

- General yard clean-up (removing litter, clearing leaves and debris from flower beds, etc.)
- Readyng the raised garden beds for spring planning (the after school and summer camp kids plant vegetables as part of their health and wellness curriculum)
- Planting a butterfly garden (This project is not definite, but we would like to do it.)
- Planting annuals in the flower beds around the center
- Indoor / outdoor painting



## DON'T GO TO HAITI FOR LENT

Join in and Don't Go To Haiti –

Be part of the group that isn't going to Haiti! Bower Hill Church is a virtual member of a team from the Fuller Center for Housing that will be building houses in Haiti. Led by Ron and Gloria Greenwald of San Francisco, we won't be arriving in Haiti on April 24<sup>th</sup> to work in partnership with Grace International to build duplexes in a development near Leogane. The plan is to build at least 69 housing units on land in Lambi owned by Grace International. Here is the website for more information.

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

Since we aren't really going, here is how it will work. Emily Kerr will be our email contact. She will forward all emails we receive from the physical team members to us and she will send information about us to the rest of the team. Here is how we are contributing to the team:

- We will raise \$5,000 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 sponsor these blocks at \$10 per block. To track our progress toward our goal, we will use Lego blocks to build a model house, one Lego block per sponsored concrete block. You can sponsor blocks by sending a check to the office, or before or after church on Sundays at the table in the Narthex. This table has our model house made with the Lego blocks sponsored thus far. Stop by and see how close we are to our goal of 500 sponsored blocks.
- We will set up a schedule during the week of April 24<sup>th</sup> to pray for the members of the team who are going. Working in Haiti is challenging and our prayers will be appreciated.
- While in Haiti the team will visit an orphanage. Our children have each donated one or two summer garments from their closets to be given to the children in the orphanage as their contribution to the team.

In return for being part of this team, we will receive updates on how the work is going and also many pictures when the physical team returns. Plus, we will know that we have made a difference in the lives of many Haitian people, by providing both housing and employment.



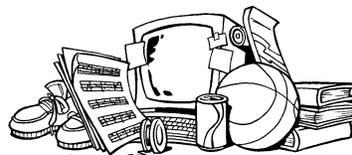
## MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

Celebrate Spring with the Three Rivers Ringers! Come celebrate Spring with the Three Rivers Ringers at our Spring Concert, Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, at Bower Hill Community Church at 7:30pm. The Three Rivers Ringers, under the direction of Artistic Director Nancy Lutz, is Pittsburgh's premier community handbell ensemble. The concert will include a broad range of repertoire: Broadway tunes to symphonic masterpieces, nursery rhymes to marches-all written or arranged for handbells and handchimes. Come hear the sound of this unique instrument-14 musicians ringing as one. Concert admission is free, but donations accepted. For more information, contact Andy Seay, Managing Director, (412-657-8161, [managingdirector@threeriversringers.org](mailto:managingdirector@threeriversringers.org)) or visit [www.threeriversringers.org](http://www.threeriversringers.org).



Handbell Concert

When: Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
 Where: Bower Hill Community Church  
 Cost: Free; Donations will be accepted



FROM THE  
**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Youth Director  
 Dan Getkin can be  
 reached at  
[da@bhccml.com](mailto:da@bhccml.com)

I just want to take a moment to say thank you to each and every person who contributed their time, energy and money towards the success of the 2011 Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Montana Work Trip. It was a wonderful evening of food and fellowship! For a while, I was nervous that we were not going to have enough seats for everyone. We certainly hope that you enjoyed yourselves.

The price tag for our trip to Montana is considerably higher than our last several summer experiences, with airfare alone essentially doubling our costs. I am so thankful that we can count on this church community to support us in every way that we ask. Please continue to pray for our work trip team as our final plans come together.

## ADVERTISING COMMITTEE SHARES INTENT, PATH OF ACTION

### BOWER HILL ADVERTISING STRATEGY ADDRESSES LOW VISIBILITY AND ADDRESSES PEOPLE SEEKING AN AFFIRMATIVE RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

By Dave Green

Last month, Glenn Child, chair of the church communications committee, introduced our new advertising campaign and reported on the process that guided its creation. His article illustrated one version of the first ad, whose headline is "We Preach Love ...Not Guilt."

The committee believes that paid advertising needs to be tried to overcome our lack of physical visibility in our community. We are not a "main street" church. People may be aware of our steeple but not have any idea of who we are. We chose *Mt. Lebanon Magazine* as our primary medium, supplemented by ads in *The Almanac* to reach the neighboring communities of Scott, Bethel Park and Upper St. Clair. Paid advertising is the only way to control both the content and the timing of our message. We believe it is essential to our growth.

The communications committee identified three categories of potential members to be reached through advertising:

- Newcomers to the area who may be seeking assimilation into the community.
- People who may be looking for a different church.
- Unchurched people who may have reached a time when they are seeking a spiritual dimension to life.

To be effective, Bower Hill Church advertising needs to get attention and differentiate our congregation from some others. The creative platform for our ads seeks to present Bower Hill as a church that is open, accepting and intellectually stimulating. In short, the ads are created to "pay off" our church slogan that we are "growing together in faith, reason, service and love."

The campaign assumes that many people, especially young people, find the institutional church to be irrelevant in today's world because of their negative earlier experience with it. We want to tell them that they may find Bower Hill to be a different kind of church ... a fellowship of people who find joy in life and personal fulfillment.

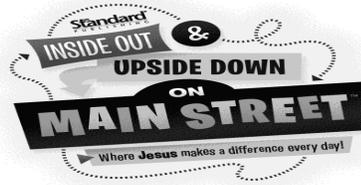
**We Preach Love, ...Not Guilt**

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?

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

**BOWER HILL** Community Church  
 (Presbyterian USA)

70 Moffett Street,  
 Just off Bower Hill Road  
 in Mt. Lebanon 15243  
 412.561.4114  
[www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 27 TO JULY 1 JOIN US!

“Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street” is coming to BHCC the week of June 27.

Our trip down Main Street will be based on five parables found in the New Testament. Each day of Vacation Bible School, our children will be challenged to retell Jesus’ stories as they make the five Parables come alive and become a part of their everyday lives, based on the following:

<b>Gratitude</b>	<b>Parable of the Whiny Workers</b> Matthew 20:1-16
<b>Compassion</b>	<b>Parable of the Roadside Rescue</b> Luke 10:25-37
<b>Forgiveness</b>	<b>Parable of the Shocking Servant</b> Matthew 18:21-35
<b>Grace</b>	<b>Parable of the Warmest Welcome</b> Luke 15:11-32
<b>Faithfulness</b>	<b>Parable of the Master’s Money</b> Luke 19:12-26

Help is needed in the following areas:

- **Registration – Paper Management**
- **Decorating and General Help before and Tear Down after**
- **Group Leadership – Team Leaders, Helpers**
- **Sidewalk Celebration – Opening and Closing ceremonies**
- **Parable Productions – Story Telling and Acting**
- **Firehouse Fitness – Indoor and Outdoor Games and Activities**
- **Fun Factory – Arts, Crafts and Service Projects**
- **Brown Bag Bistro – Assembling Snacks**
- **Nursery – Watching the littlest ones**
- **General Gophers – A very important group**

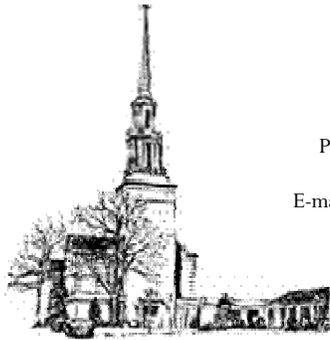
Please plan to join us on our trip down Main Street as we make the Bible come alive for our children. We will need lots of help and there is certainly a volunteer spot with your name on it. We can promise that it will be a meaningful week for all involved. Please contact Susan Hicks for details.



# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

70 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



Phone: 412-561-4114  
Fax: 412-561-2252  
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[www.bhccml.com](http://www.bhccml.com)



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## 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, Office Administrator  
[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