

~A Singing Faith~

*"Be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms, and hymns,
and spiritual songs among yourselves, making melody to the Lord in your hearts."*

~Eph. 5:18b, 19

Dear Friends,

Some years ago, I attended a fledgling "church plant," a contemporary new congregation for young Mennonites who left the Pennsylvania countryside to seek opportunities in Pittsburgh. They were students and professionals who had grown up in those long, narrow farming valleys in the center of the state. It was a hard transition from their native homes, where church and community were

central, to the freedom and anonymity of urban life. Living in two worlds is always hard; it makes you a stranger in both. And though the little congregation spoke effectively to the issues facing these young Mennonites, one question that it couldn't resolve was music. They were a whole new breed of Mennonite: urban, educated, and landless. Could they still sing the lilting old gospel songs that their ancestors sang since colonial times in clapboard meetinghouses from Belleville to Strasburg? Should they adopt the unfamiliar but modern music of the megachurches? Or should they create their own unique music to express their own unique experiences of faith?

This last possibility would be the ideal option for any church, but few congregations have the time and talent to write all new music. In the end, they decided to worship entirely without music. It made their

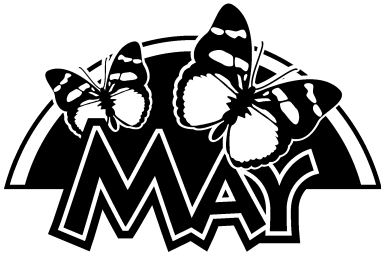
otherwise meaningful worship service seem strangely like a Sunday school class. The new congregation was innovative and creative, and it spoke to real needs in the lives of its members...but to me, the absence of music was nearly tragic. Think for a moment: What part does music have in your life of faith? What would worship look like without it? When you sing in the shower (and I know you do), do you ever croon a hymn? Maybe even one of these?

1. Amazing Grace
2. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
3. Morning Has Broken
4. How Great Thou Art
5. Here I Am, Lord
6. Open My Eyes that I May See
7. I Danced in the Morning
8. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
9. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
10. Be Thou My Vision
11. Abide with Me
12. In Christ There Is No East or West
13. In the Garden (not in our hymnal)
14. This Is My Father's World
15. Great Is Thy Faithfulness
16. For the Beauty of the Earth
17. O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
18. Dear Lord and Father of Mankind
19. To God Be the Glory
20. Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Music is intrinsically human, a celebrated part of every culture. On those occasions when our lives brush up against the Sacred, the human bent toward music is even intensified. The songs of the hymnal give expression to our longings for God, but they also transmit the faith in simple, memorable ways. Music is a teacher and a catalyst. Music touches a part of the soul that words alone can never reach. We are blessed that Bower Hill Church is endowed with an array of musical talent. As our congregation grows, there is increased interest in retaining our musical heritage while also expanding upon it to include a greater variety of musical forms. In the tradition of Casey Kasem, here are the Top Twenty Favorite Hymns from a recent poll of Bower Hill attendees. I found some of them surprising!

In Christ's peace,

~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

FUN FOR ALL AGES

On Saturday, May 21st, we will be having our 2nd Bower Hill game night. All are welcome to attend from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring your favorite indoor and outdoor games (weather permitting) and a snack and/or drink to share.

FLEA MARKET RESULTS

Thank you to all the people who made this year's flea market a success: the members who donated items, the bakers who made goodies for the snack bar, and all the volunteers who worked so hard pricing, bringing down the boxes from the loft (mostly the youth), setting up and helping out the day of the sale. Thanks to the generosity of the members of Bower Hill, the Flea Market made about \$2300. The snack bar was also a success, making about \$240. The items that were left have been packed up and taken back up to the loft in anticipation of the November Flea Market.

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **May 8**, 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), are always deeply appreciated. Specifically in May, the food bank requested boxed cereal.

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CONTINUES ON 1ST TUES.

Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Tuesday of each month May through October. The next meeting is on May 3. 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.

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!

FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Our April was a nice deep breath after our major events in March. We worked very hard taking care of our Spaghetti Dinner, but in April we relaxed! Our fundraising has really gone quite smoothly, which is such a relief when the work trip gets to be just a few short months away. Thank you for all of your continued support. Please continue to pray for our mission team, which officially includes our own Nancy Salvante as the other chaperone for the trip. The flights have been booked, the van has been rented, now we just need you all to keep us in your thoughts and lift us up in your prayers so that we can be empowered by God's spirit to do great things. We can hardly wait for June 25th - but know there is a lot of fun and service yet to be accomplished. See you soon.

NEW BULLETIN PHOTO

Have you seen the lovely new photo of the church that graces our Sunday bulletin? Member and photographer, Lisa Shwallon, was kind enough to donate her time and talent to BHCC. Lisa has a website that showcases her new photography business. Check it out!

www.BridgeCityPhoto.com

MAY WORSHIP INFORMATION

May 1: Second Sunday of Easter
"More than Words," John 20:19-31

May 8: Third Sunday of Easter
"The Breaking of the Bread," Luke 24:13-35

May 15: Fourth Sunday of Easter,
"Youth Sunday" (Dan Getkin is preaching.)

May 22: Fifth Sunday of Easter
"A Place for You," John 14:1-14

May 29: Sixth Sunday of Easter
"The Unknown God," Acts 17:22-31

COMMUNION SERVERS

Lynn Foltz, Dave and Nancy Green, Marian Brannan

Please note that Communion will be served May 8th.

GREETERS

May 8: Tim and Darendra Lease, Carolyn Phillippe

May 15: Jean Miewald, Lee Ferrero, Lynn Wohleber

May 22: Gordon Mitchell, Anne Mitchell, Joan Zakor

May 29: Steve and Debbie Boisvert, Chan Ketchum

LECTORS

May 8: Faith in Action

May 8: DJ Geis

May 15: Cynthia Gissin

May 22: Amanda Vosburgh

May 29: Michelle Snyder

SOUND BOARD OPERATORS

Glenn Child, Bill Andrews

USHERS

Volunteers are being contacted by Bob Winnett. See Bob to join the May 2011 team for one or more Sundays!

MAY ADULT EDUCATION CONSIDERS STUDIES OF THE HISTORICAL JESUS

May 8: Pastor Brian Snyder will talk about developments in the study of the historical Jesus, highlighting prominent names and theories. This class will serve as preparation for a visit on May 15 by Dr. Dale Allison from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

May 15: Dr. Dale Allison, professor of New Testament exegesis and early Christianity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, will discuss his views of the historical Jesus. Dr. Allison is the author of many books, including *Constructing Jesus: Memory, Imagination, and History* and *The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus*. Dr. Allison is a leading scholar in the study of the historical Jesus, and one of only a few who diverge widely from the opinions of The Jesus Seminar.

May 22: Pastor Brian Snyder will lead a debriefing session and discussion of Dr. Allison's visit.

Adult education programs end for the season with the May 22 presentation. Programs will begin again in September.

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

COMING IN MAY – REUNION!

Starting on May 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and continuing on each following Tuesday, please come to Reunion in the chapel. Reunion will be an informal time of contemporary music, faith sharing, prayer and fellowship to be used as a means by which to check in with and care for one another. If you could use a deep breath and a pause from your midweek schedule to center yourself with God, join us! Questions? Contact Dan Getkin at da@bhccml.com



Congregational Meeting

By official call of the Session, the second 2011 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), will be held on May 15 in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees for the offices of Session, Deacon and Nominating Committee members to be elected by the congregation. Persons may also be nominated from the floor. Such nominations must have the consent of the persons being nominated prior to the meeting.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

Session - Class of 2014

1. Dave Green
2. Dave Hicks
3. Rick Jacobs
4. Phil Johnson
5. Michelle Snyder
6. Margaret Zabo

Deacons - Class of 2014

1. Debbie Boisvert
2. Nancy Geis
3. Doris Olinger
4. Josie Sheldon

Nominating Committee - 2012

1. Carolyn Phillippe
2. Shelly Saba
3. Christie Westerhoff
4. Joan Zakor



“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:

Gratitude	Parable of the Whiny Workers Matthew 20:1-16
Compassion	Parable of the Roadside Rescue Luke 10:25-37
Forgiveness	Parable of the Shocking Servant Matthew 18:21-35
Grace	Parable of the Warmest Welcome Luke 15:11-32
Faithfulness	Parable of the Master's Money 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**

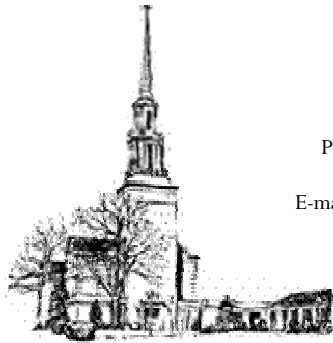
Please plan to join us on our trip down Main Street as we make the Bible come alive for our children. We will need lots of help and there is certainly a volunteer spot with your name on it. We can promise that it will be a meaningful week for all involved. Please contact Susan Hicks for details.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JUNE 27 TO JULY 1
CALL 412-561-4114
TO REGISTER OR VOLUNTEER**

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
Rev. John Yohe

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries
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Dan Getkin, Youth Director
da@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Emily Kerr, Office Administrator
em@bhccml.com

Jim Askins, Custodian

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

CARE LIST

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

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Catheryn Deemer, 300 Kane Blvd. Room 314, Pittsburgh, PA 1524

Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd, #7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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