

THE COMPANY OF PASTORS

“There are more Presbyterian pastors in the pews of Bower Hill Church than in all of McKean County!”

Dear Friends,

Pittsburgh is home to me now. In a way, it's always been home. As a child, I constantly lived in the outlying areas, but Pittsburgh was our city. This is the place where we came to see caged tigers, and dinosaur bones, and tropical birds. I saw my first skyscraper here and my first Monet. After living years out west and overseas, it was to Pittsburgh that I returned for my Master's degree. It was here I met my wife and got married. Here we had our first apartment together, and here our first child was born.

Whenever I catch the Greek Food Festival in Oakland, or attend a performance by the Renaissance and Baroque Society, or slip into a Wednesday night “Taizé” service at East Liberty Presbyterian Church, I'm reminded again of how wonderful it is to be back in this city. And yet, Pittsburgh offers another joy that you may never have considered. Did you know that Pittsburgh is one of the most Presbyterian cities in the world?

Now, I'm not disparaging other denominations. And I certainly don't think we're superior to our non-Presbyterian brothers and sisters. No matter how numerous the Presbyterians in Southwestern PA, we will always be outnumbered by the Methodists and the Catholics—and I like them just fine. I'm especially fond of Lutherans. But I'm glad for all the many Presbyterians around here. Before returning to Pittsburgh, I lived in a place where I was one of three Presbyterian pastors in the entire county! It's enriching for me to be surrounded by so many clergy colleagues of my own denomination. And it's enriching for us as a congregation.

Bower Hill Community Church is now a spiritual home to four Presbyterian clergypersons other

than myself. That's right; there are more Presbyterian pastors in our pews than in all McKean County! Together, these pastors make up a loosely organized group that we call “The Company of Pastors.” They are not paid employees of Bower Hill, but they worship with us, and they volunteer their services on an “as-needed” basis. As clergy, they cannot join our church, since their membership is in a presbytery. But our Session has granted the Company permission to preach, to lead classes, to participate on committees, and to make pastoral calls in my absence. Any member of the Company is permitted to officiate at sacraments either during a worship service or while visiting on behalf of the church. Members of the Company of Pastors include:

- The Rev. John Yohe, who is honorably retired from Chartiers Valley Church,
- The Rev. Dr. Grafton Eliason, who is a professor in the Department of Counselor Education at California University of PA;
- The Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen, who is honorably retired from Olivet Church in West Elizabeth.
- The most recent addition to the Company of Pastors is the Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes, honorably retired member of Muskingum Presbytery (Ohio). Betty's doctorate is in Christian education. She moved to Mt. Lebanon in order to be close to her family, but she also spends much time in Colorado.

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

OFFICE NOTES

- BHCC office manager Emily Kerr will be out of the office June 27th through July 5th in order to serve as Program Director at a local Cub Scout Day Camp.
- Due to office restructuring and the incoming Session schedule, there will be a combined June/July newsletter. The deadline for this publication is June 20.
- Please watch the bulletin for June worship and volunteer information.

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!



On Sunday, **June 12**, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. High-protein foods like peanut butter and tuna, baby items of all types (diapers, formula, food), are always deeply appreciated. Specifically in June,

the food bank continues to request boxed cereal.

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST CONTINUES ON 1ST TUES.



Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Tuesday of each month June through October. The next meeting is on June 7. 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.

June 21

Jim the Boy by Tony Earley
 Hostess: Betsy Prine

July 19

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand
 by Helen Simonson

Come and join a lively discussion. All are welcome!

MUSICIANS NEEDED!

As we continue to expand our music ministries, we are strategizing ways to incorporate a variety of instruments into worship. If you play a musical instrument and if you would be willing to take part in a Sunday morning worship service—whether on occasion or on a regular basis—please see the pastor.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING SOON!

Vacation Bible School will begin on June 27. It is never too late for you to help us or to register your children or grandchildren so they may attend. Please consider helping us one day or more with the art and crafts, storytelling, general help during the opening and closing ceremonies, in the kitchen, with child care and during our games. Please join us for a week of fun...you won't regret it. See page four for more information.



Youth Director
Dan Getkin can be
reached at
da@bhccml.com

Youth Sunday was a wonderful opportunity to close the book on another academic year for our students. I hope you enjoyed their leadership in the service as much as I did. It was a bittersweet time together, though, as we recognized Tyler Kane's transition from high school senior to college freshman. His words reflected Bower Hill's long-standing commitment to teach its young people about the biblical principles of service and compassion. This church community has obviously had an enormous impact upon his character. And now, with the work trip right around the corner, Bower Hill continues to show its desire to see young people active in the world around them. Thank you for all you have done to make this trip possible, and please continue to pray for our final plans and safe travel.



"JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICHO,
JERICHO, JERICHO,
JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICHO,
AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN!"

MUSIC NOTES

By JESSICA BAIER

je@bhccml.com

Many thanks to the members of the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir for completing another program year. The people involved in Music Ministry at Bower Hill (including the choirs, additional soloists/instrumentalists, and the Worship and Music Committee) are great benefactors to our music program. Thanks also to those of you who supported the spring concerts by attending and assisting with the reception! For the summer, there are many opportunities to still be a part of Music Ministry! This is a great time to share your gifts with the congregation without committing too much time in an ensemble. If you are willing and able, please consider playing an instrument or singing during summer worship. There will also be opportunities to sing with a pick-up choir. On these dates, we will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning to rehearse an anthem. These Sundays are: July 10 and 31, August 14 and 28.

FIA was a success! The Saturday outdoor projects went according to plan under the glorious (and very rare these days) sunny skies! The following is a brief summary of the project outcomes. We hope to put together a slideshow for the congregation in the near future. Thanks to all who participated and DIDN'T go to church, but were OUR church!



THE PITTSBURGH PROJECT

We had 8 workers on Saturday and 11 workers on Sunday who braved sun, rain, mud, poison ivy and teenagers with axes and picks to install the first 350 feet of the wooded trail linking the Pittsburgh Project with its Urban Farm. We were trained in techniques of trail building that were set up by the International Mountain Biking Association and installed the trail per their guidelines.

LIGHT OF LIFE

Cooks and servers fed approximately 144 guests at the mission. The menu included lasagna, salad and dessert. We had a wonderful day...great conversation, lots of worthy work...well worth it! The guests at L of L LOVED the lasagna and some came back three times!

FLEECE BLANKETS

We purchased 44 blanket kits to make blankets for Interfaith Hospitality Network. A total of 34 people helped make the blankets over the three-day weekend. Thank you for helping make this possible.

PROVIDENCE CONNECTIONS PLAYGROUND

We had a team of 6 (+2 kids) working on sprucing up a playground that had been damaged by arson. Most of our work focused on the grounds of this Northside neighborhood. We painted picnic tables, cleared out garden boxes for new planting, pruned out burnt shrubs, created a new flower bed and planted new flowers in the existing beds. The women were so thankful. "Before" pictures have been taken and the women of the program will be sending us "after" pictures when all the work is complete. The Mission and Outreach Committee will share those with the congregation once we receive them, hopefully in the Fall. Thanks to all who came out on that beautiful day!

BEAUTIFUL BHCC

The intermittent rain showers couldn't dampen the spirits of the intergenerational group of members who weeded and hauled and spread mulch to spruce up the garden beds surrounding BHCC. The future of BHCC is in good hands if the efforts of our younger workers is any indication. When you come to church, take a look at how beautiful the grounds of BHCC look as spring finally is here!



UPcoming EVENTS

COMMITTEE PLANNING FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR BHCC!

Under chair Michelle Snyder,
our newly revitalized Social Events Committee is
busy planning a whole host of fun activities for all
members and friends of BHCC.

Over the summer and into next fall, be on the look-
out for Mini Golf, an All-Church Camping Trip, a
Church Picnic, a Washington Wildthings Baseball
Game and a Fall Fest activity . Keep an eye on your
bulletin and newsletter for more information!

Coming up next is: TRAIL DAY!

The newly organized Social Events Committee is plan-
ning an excursion on the Panhandle Trail. This trail—
which follows the old “Panhandle Line” of the Pennsyl-
vania Railroad—is fully groomed and entirely level, so
it is ideal for walkers and cyclists of all ages and skill
levels. Bring your bike or your walking shoes and meet
at the Walkers Mill Trailhead at 10:00 a.m. on Satur-
day, June 18. Either pack a lunch or plan to take a
lunch break in Rennerdale (less than a mile from start-
ing point) or Oakdale (4.5 miles from starting
point). Bring water. Travel at your own pace. Turn
back whenever you like. The point is that we journey
together!

Finding the trail:

From the place where Noblestown Road (West Main
Street of Carnegie) passes under I-79, go west about 1.7
miles into the unmarked village of Walkers Mill. At
the four-way stop sign, make a left. The Panhandle
Trail parking lot and trailhead are well marked, a short
distance down the road on the right.



“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 every-
day 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 WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

VILLA MARIA RETREAT CENTER, VILLA MARIA, PA

(outside of New Castle, approximately 1 hour north of the city)

FRIDAY, 9/23 (MEET AT CHURCH AT 5 P.M.)

THROUGH SUNDAY 9/25 (AFTER BREAKFAST)

**Note: The choir will not be singing on this Sunday,
in order to allow choir members to enjoy the full retreat*

THEME & COST: TO BE DETERMINED, BUT COST NOT TO EXCEED \$100

Name _____

Best way to contact you:

Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

_____ I will be coming

_____ I will not be coming

_____ I'd like to come, but I'm not yet sure if I can because:

_____ I would be willing to drive. # my vehicle holds _____

Roommate request? _____

**Rooms have 2 single beds. If no request is made, we'll be glad to pair you.*

_____ I need my own room.

**Please consider that there are a VERY small number of private rooms.*

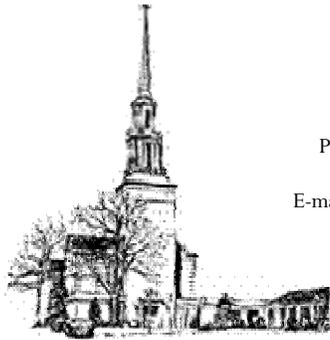
Any special considerations or comments (food allergies, "I snore", handicap accessibility needs, etc):

PLEASE RETURN IN THE OFFERING PLATE, MAIL TO THE OFFICE OR GIVE TO MICHELLE SNYDER

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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Company of Pastors
Rev. Grafton Eliason
Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen
Rev. Betty Sykes
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, 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

Margie Beatty, 1300 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Peggy Craig, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

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

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

Ethel La Barbera, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Velma Noonan, 50 Vanadium Road, #1119, Bridgeville, PA 15017

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

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