

## SIMPLE THINGS

*“Our life is frittered away by details. Simplify! Simplify! Simplify!  
Keep your accounts on your thumbnail.” ~Henry David Thoreau*

Dear Friends,

The quilt's been in the family as long as I can remember. Someone once told me that it's called a “double-wedding-ring-quilt,” and it was probably sewn for young newlyweds many years ago. I don't know whose wedding it commemorates or who sewed it. Those questions never occurred to me until there was no one left to ask. We'd call the thing an heirloom if it were in better condition. We'd use it on our beds if it weren't so unfashionable. But though we neither treasure it nor sleep under it, I do sometimes reach for the old wedding quilt on summer evenings, as I did just last week. I spread it out under the silver maples, and there I lay, listening to the world.

A red squirrel scolded me from the branches nearby, scandalized that I'd set up camp so close to her. I didn't mind her chiding; she's been known to trespass in my space, too. Birds sang into the approaching dusk. I-79 hummed in the distance. We've lived here for a year, and the highway has kept silence exactly twice that I can recall: once when I rose in early darkness to write a sermon and once on Christmas morning.

As I lay on the old quilt, my younger daughter chattered to herself quietly and made chalk drawings on the driveway. She and the interstate have a few things in common: busyness, endless motion, continuous sound. It was one of those midsummer evenings when all my work was done; my three ladies were all happily going about their business; the cucumbers and zucchinis were swelling like slow balloons in the garden. The loud cicadas were still a few weeks away. All seemed well with the world.

Of course, all was not well with the world. The greed of some would still guarantee the poverty of the many. The power-lust of some would still perpetuate large scale and needless violence. Even on that idyllic evening, the earth itself could cry out for justice. But moments of tranquility overtake even the most tempestuous of souls, and those of us who yearn for a “coming kingdom” of justice and peace need such moments. They give us strength for the journey, joy for the hard task.

And in that moment, all did seem well, lying there on a wedding quilt beneath the old, old maples. When we step back to survey our lives, it's these simple pleasures that we remember. Moody European dramas spend long moments showing life as it happens wordlessly: a bus ride, a family meal, a moment by the sea. And often, when a film wants to depict a person looking back on his or her life, it's the moments like these that roll before the mind's eye: playing on the schoolyard, walking with a loved one, music wafting from a neighbor's open window. These times are sacred. They're holy. They're stuffed with the very life of God within us and all around.

Church, too, is a place of simple things. Our two most meaningful acts are a bath and a meal (baptism and communion). Preaching, praying, and singing are the soul's attempt to make simple conversation with Life, for God is best known in simplicity. In the days ahead, I charge each of you with the plain task of sharing “simple things” with anyone in our midst whom you do not know. It could be a visitor or just a person sitting alone. Share a smile and a greeting. But more, make some attempt at conversation, however awkward. Too often, we shake hands with visitors at the passing of the peace, then we leave them to stand uncomfortably alone. Ask to sit with a newcomer or a stranger! Invite that person to coffee hour, or to Sunday school, or even to lunch! Introduce those persons to others, and remind them to fill out the pew pad! Simple things. They make all the difference in our lives. And God is very much in them.

~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

### PRODUCE TO THE PEOPLE

Bower Hill will again be a coordinating congregation for Produce to People on September 17 and December 17. Produce to People provides healthy food, produce and fellowship to individuals and families at risk in the North Side. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile and rewarding Mission Project. Physical strength and agility is not necessary. All that is needed is a desire to share Christ's love and compassion to those most in need. A sign-up for the September distribution will be in the Narthex in August. Please see Keith Mason if you have any questions.

### NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR HIRED

Bower Hill welcomes its new seminary intern and Director of Youth Ministries, Chelsea Leitcher, a second-year student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Chelsea is a member of Irvine Presbyterian Church in Southern California, and originally comes from San Luis Obispo. Chelsea is currently taking summer classes in New Testament Greek. She will begin to hold regular office hours after the fall academic term begins. Please welcome the newest member of Bower Hill's staff!

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

Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Tuesday of each month through October. Please join us Tuesday, August 2, and Tuesday, September 6. 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. Come and join a lively discussion. All are welcome!

**August :** *Stolen Innocence* by Elissa Wall.  
**Hostess:** Margaret Zabo

### UP AND COMING EVENTS FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

#### AUGUST 12: CAMPING!

Join us for an all-church camping trip the weekend of August 12-14th *at Bear Run Campground. Cabin rental is available for a modest fee to those who do not wish to tent camp.* Campers may arrive Friday evening and go home Sunday afternoon. Not much of a camper? Then sleep at home and come join the campers for specially scheduled events, like an evening cookout or a group hike. If you might be interested in pitching your tent with us, please sign up in the narthex.

#### AUGUST 20: ALL-CHURCH PICNIC RETURNS!

SATURDAY, August 20th at 3:00 p.m., the Kerner family and the Rising family will sponsor the all-church picnic in honor of Alice Kerner and Suellen Hicks. All food and drinks will be provided as well as balloon animals, face-painting, and games for the young and the young-at-heart. All you need to bring is yourselves and your lawn chairs and prepare to have a great time! Please see the insert included in this issue of the newsletter.

#### SAVE THE DATE! MORE INFO TO COME...

**September 10:** Miniature Golf Outing  
**September 23-25:** Women's Retreat (see page 7)

*Please note that finances should never stand in the way of those who wish to participate in Parish Life activities.*

*Assistance is available. Please feel free to speak confidentially with chair Michelle Snyder if financial assistance is needed.*

**MUSIC NOTES**

BY JESSICA BAIER

jc@bhccml.com

a

**On Sunday, August 21,****we will have our last pick-up choir.****We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, and learn piece of music to sing at the offertory. Please join us!****Directions for Singing:** Found in the United Methodist HymnalTaken from John Wesley's *Select Hymn*, 1761

- Learn these tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.
- Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.
- Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it a blessing.
- Sing lustily and with a good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.
- Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.
- Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.
- Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when he cometh in the clouds of heaven.



**Creative Connections** - Here at Bower Hill church, we have some talented folks....some who know it and some who are about to learn. The Parish Life Committee is in the process of developing activities and programs to allow people to express and develop their creative selves while connecting in meaningful ways with those who share the same interests. Here are a few that are being rolled out:

**Hooks & Needles** - You might think it sounds like torture, but we just call it fun. If you knit, crochet, needlepoint, or anything related, consider coming on the first Saturday afternoon of every month, starting August 6th at 1:00 p.m. to do it together. If you don't do any of those things but would love to learn, you're welcome too. We have experts, amateurs and everything in-between so come and give it a try. Those who are first-timers may want to contact Trisha Eliason or Susan Nilson to see what basic supplies you should get your hands on.

**StoryCorp** - Come scrapbookers, archivists, and historians alike. A group is forming that is interested in recording memories. For some, that is in the form of pictures. For others, it is in the form of written word and recorded history. But both share the same goal of keeping memories alive. If you are interested in participating to capture your own memories or those of the people you love, the first meeting of this group will be on Saturday, August 27th, at 1:00 p.m. For more information, contact Betsy Hohlfelder or LuAnn McNickle (regarding scrapbooking) or Marian Brannan (regarding memory books).



## BOWER HILL LAUNCHES A HAITI SOLAR-POWERED WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT

*You are invited to join us in a new Bower Hill mission effort –  
the installation of a solar-powered water purification unit in Haiti!*

On Sunday, June 5, the Rev. Karen Battle presented Bower Hill with a mission opportunity to respond to a desperate need in Haiti through the Presbytery's Haiti Water Project (details below). A joint effort of the Synod of the Living Waters ('Living Waters for the World') and the Synod of the Sun ('Solar Under the Sun') trains church teams in the installation of solar-powered water purification systems that can be used anywhere in the world where people are in need of clean water for drinking and cooking.

A group from Koinonia was very excited about the prospect of serving our Lord by helping those still suffering the deplorable conditions in Haiti. This group proposed to Session and the Mission Committee that we form a Bower Hill team to install such a water purification unit in a Haitian community. On Sunday, July 10, Session approved this project.

Based on Rev. Battle's presentation, several congregation members have already expressed an interest in being on the traveling team and several more have indicated a desire to help here in Pittsburgh! If you are interested in being part of the traveling team, let us know! In addition, there is plenty of support work to be done by volunteers here at home.

Please call or email the church office if you are interested in joining the BHCC team (either traveling or support) to make the Haiti clean water project happen.

If you have any questions, phone or email:

- Rick ([raj@jacobs-pa.com](mailto:raj@jacobs-pa.com)) or Pat Jacobs ([pj@jacobs-pa.com](mailto:pj@jacobs-pa.com))  
Phone: 412-835-0348
- Alan ([alanh@verizon.net](mailto:alanh@verizon.net)) or Betsy Hohlfelder ([betsyho@verizon.net](mailto:betsyho@verizon.net))  
Phone: 412-341-1029

This water purification project is indeed a MAJOR commitment on the part of BHCC, but we believe the Spirit is alive and working in this congregation to give us the power to make it happen.

*Please see page five of the newsletter for continued details.*



**HERE IS A SUMMARY OF THE MISSION OPPORTUNITY  
REV. KAREN BATTLE PRESENTED TO US:**

---

- **Need:** As you may know, the people of Haiti, especially after the recent earthquake, are in desperate need of clean drinking water. Cholera is a serious and ongoing problem.
- **Presbytery Mission:** The Presbytery's goal is to send five traveling teams to Haiti who will develop ongoing relationships with Haitians through the installation of solar-powered water purification systems. Teams from two other churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery are already in place and undergoing training.  
Presbytery support: Presbytery will pay for the solar unit and water purification equipment (filtration/UV) to be installed and provide some funds to help pay for our training. The project will be overseen by Presbytery's Great Commission Ministry Team.
- **BHCC time and talent commitment:** We need the active and involved support of the entire congregation - the actual project team will include many more people than just the ones who will be traveling to Haiti. It is expected that completing the project will take approximately three years.  
Traveling team commitment: the traveling team will consist of 8-10 Bower Hill members who will attend training and then, between them, make four trips over a period of three years to Haiti (not all team members go on every trip).  
Training: 1) A group of 4-6 team members will attend five days of training in Mississippi (partnership development/project management/system sustainability/evaluation & assurance; health/hygiene/spiritual education; water system installation/operation/maintenance) provided by the Living Waters Synod. 2) Another group of 2-4 will go to four days of solar setup training in Arkansas (leadership/partnering/surveying; installation/equipping partners) provided by the Synod of the Sun.  
Haiti travel detail: Trip #1 to Haiti is for the traveling team to evaluate potential projects and establish a relationship with a resident partner team in Haiti. Trip #2 is to oversee installation of the water purification system and provide community health and hygiene education. Trips #3 and #4 are for follow-up, troubleshooting and evaluation.
- **Haitian partner team:** Living Waters for the World, a project of the Living Waters Synod, has already identified potential partner teams in Haiti. We will work with a resident Haitian team that is expected to provide: 1) infrastructure to support and sustain the project; 2) facilities to house the equipment, i.e., a 3-room structure; 3) workers to install the equipment with supervision of the trained US partners.
- **Covenant:** The BHCC traveling team and resident Haiti team will sign a covenant spelling out each party's duties and expectations.
- **BHCC financial responsibility:** We will provide funding for training and travel expenses, some of which can be raised from the community, some from Bower Hill members and some from the Mission budget and designated mission funds. This money does not need to be raised up front, but spread out over the three years of the project. What is necessary is the commitment to raise the money in a timely enough fashion for the project to proceed. The total funding we will need to provide is estimated to be about \$8,000/year.

## SESSION RESPONSIBILITIES (2011-2012)

### **Clerk of Session**

Bill Cadwell

### **Church Treasurer**

Kurt Kerner (Gordon Mitchell, Assistant)

### **Commissioner to Presbytery**

Bill Cadwell

#### **Administration and Personnel**

Session Chair: Rick Jacobs

Session Member: Mary Beth Waine

#### **Mission and Outreach**

Session Chair: Keith Mason

Session Member: Kiri Rising

#### **Building and Grounds**

Session Chair: Lynn Foltz

Session Member: Dave Hicks

#### **Nominating**

Session Chair: Curt Philson

Session Member: Dave Hicks

#### **Christian Education (Children)**

Non-Session Chair: Carolyn Westerhoff

Session Member: Susan Hicks

Session Member: Kirsten Bruder

#### **Parish Life**

Session Chair: Michelle Snyder

Session Member: Kiri Rising

#### **Christian Education (Adult)**

Session Chair: Dave Green

Session Member: Bill Cadwell

#### **Worship and Music**

Session Chair: Margaret Zabo

Session Member: Lynne Wohleber

#### **Evangelism and Membership**

Session Chair: Phyllis Yohe

Session Member: Dave Green

#### **Youth Ministries**

Session Chair: Mary Beth Waine

Session Member: Curt Philson

#### **Finance and Stewardship**

Session Chair: Phil Johnson

Session Member: Kurt Kerner

## MEMORIAL GARDEN POLICY

Maintenance Responsibility: Building and Grounds Committee

Adopted: 02/28/2011

The Memorial Garden Policy is as follows:

- The garden is available to all members and friends of BHCC. (No approval is necessary.)  
The pastor will assist in making the necessary arrangements.
- The remains will be buried with 12" of soil above the ashes and without any containers or markers.
- Ashes may not be scattered.
- The family will purchase the name piece for the wall plaque. Names will be listed in chronological order.
- A Memorial Book with the name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death will be kept in the Narthex.
- No plants or decorations may be added to the garden by loved ones of the deceased.



***We are excited to bring back the Bower Hill Women's Retreat!  
Please join your friends for a relaxing yet energizing weekend.***

We will gather in the church parking lot off the portico entrance at 5:00 p.m. on Friday September 23 to carpool to the Villa Maria Retreat Center, located outside of New Castle approximately one hour north of Pittsburgh. Villa Maria sits on 728 acres of God's beauty that includes four walking trails, an outdoor labyrinth, wetlands, wildlife habitats, a 400 acre tree farm, 40 acres designated as an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, green houses, organic gardens that include herbs used for culinary, medicinal and decorative purposes and a full working farm. Indoor areas for our use are the Art Barn, the Zen room, the large indoor heated swimming pool and the beautiful sanctuary.

Friday night, we have planned a relaxed mixer complete with refreshments, get-to-know-you fun and an introduction to the weekend plans. Saturday's program will focus on the weekend theme, *Putting Together the Pieces: Growing Together in Faith, Reason, Service and Love*. Saturday will also include time for leisure activities and an evening worship service. Sunday after breakfast you are welcome to stay and enjoy the grounds or carpool back to the church. All meals and food are provided by Villa Maria staff and are included in the cost of the weekend. Most rooms have two single beds; there are a small number of private rooms. Linens are provided.

- \* Please note that the choir will not be singing on this Sunday in order to allow choir members to enjoy the full retreat.
- \* The cost of the retreat is \$100, financial assistance is available.
- \* Please complete and return your registration form to the church office as soon as possible.
- \* If you have any questions, please call one of us. We want everyone to feel comfortable and welcome.

***We look forward to seeing you there!***

Darenda Lease: 412-654-5766 Kathy Philson: 412-491-4748 Michelle Snyder: 412-221-5423



What a Great Week we had at this year's Vacation Bible School as 41 children and 41 adults learned about Gratitude, Compassion, Faithfulness, Grace and Forgiveness. Our children were able to experience so many life-long lessons through just five parables in the Bible. Thanks to all of you amazing BHCC Members and Friends for your Donations, your Time, your Talents and your Prayers.

You certainly demonstrated your love of our God, our Church and our Children!

With so many people involved it would be easy to miss someone. If you are not mentioned, please know that we couldn't have done it without YOU. Thanks to ALL who helped to make our 2011 VBS a success! We could never have done it without YOU!

Thank you to the following volunteers:

**Fun Factory:** Sheri Geis, Kiri Rising, Pat Jacobs

**Parable Productions:** Dawn Kane, Carolyn Westerhoff, Joan Bridges, Betsy Holfelder, Cynthia Gissin, Susan Nilsen, Marian Brannan

**Firehouse Fitness:** Shelly Saba, Nick Kane, Tyler Kane, Michael Teti

**The Music Shop:** Jessica Baier, Pastor Kimberly van Driel, Joan Zakor

**Brown Bag Bistro:** Susan Hicks, Dottie Carter, Donna Williams, Candy Woodall

**The Little Shop:** Nancy Green, Harmony Sisk

**Opening and Closing Ceremonies:** Kirsten Bruder, Pastor Brian Snyder, Dave Hicks, Rich Salvante, Glenn Child

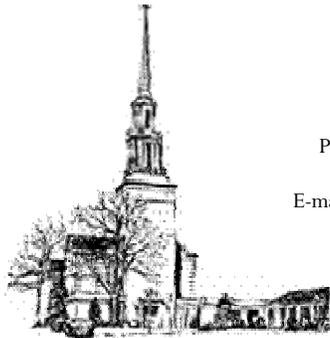
**Group Leaders:** Chelsea Leitcher, Logan Schardt, Joey Darges, Maura Teti, Alyssa Hess, Nora Coyne, Josh Darges, Theresa Child, Rick Jacobs, Patricia Patrusik

**Deck the Halls:** Dozens of helping hands made the decorating and tear-down fast and easy.

# 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. Betty Sykes  
Rev. John Yohe

Jessica Baier, Director of Music Ministries  
[je@bhccml.com](mailto:je@bhccml.com)

Chelsea Leitcher, Youth Director  
[ch@bhccml.com](mailto:ch@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

**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

## **FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!**

On Sunday, **August 14**, 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 August, the food bank continues to request boxed cereal and hearty soups.