

~A Pensive Time~

*“Take full account of the excellencies which you possess,  
and in gratitude remember how you would yearn for them if you had them not.”  
~Marcus Aurelius*

Dear Friends,

Fall is a pensive time of year. The days grow shorter and darker, making the gold-tinted sunlight even more precious than before. Fall's splendor is so fleeting. Yesterday, the maple tree was brilliant in shades of yellow and orange; today its half-bare branches look like gnarled fingers, clutching at the sky. The noises of the world are muffled beneath a mantle of russet leaves. Our yard furniture is still sitting out—as if the summer might last forever, as if one more bright day might call us back out to lounge. In the old days, fall was your last chance to batten down the hatches before winter came and stranded you beside the hearth. All the summer's long work needed to be done in preparation for the ruthless winter days ahead: all the harvesting, all the canning, all the cutting and stacking of firewood. We don't make those winter preparations anymore. But fall still lends itself to retrospect; it's a natural time to cast a backward glance over the bright days of summer. It's a time when many people take a kind of mental or spiritual stock of the year, which can lead to feelings of gratitude and generosity.

Do you remember Aesop's thanksgiving tale of Androcles and the Lion?

*A slave named Androcles escaped from his master and fled to the forest. As he was wandering about, he came upon a Lion moaning and groaning. At first he turned to flee, but finding that the Lion did not pursue him, he turned back and approached him. As he came near, the Lion put out his paw, which was all swollen and bleeding. Androcles found that a huge thorn had got into it, and was causing all the pain. He pulled out the thorn and bound up the paw of the Lion, who was soon able to rise and lick the hand of Androcles like a dog. Then the Lion took Androcles to his cave, and every day used to bring him meat from which to live.*

*Shortly afterwards both Androcles and the Lion were captured, and the slave was sentenced to be thrown to the Lion, after the latter had been kept without food for several days. The Emperor and all his Court came to see the spectacle, and Androcles was led out into the middle of the arena. Soon the Lion was let loose from his den, and rushed bounding and roaring towards his victim. But as soon as he came near to Androcles he recognized his friend, and fawned upon him, and licked his hands like a friendly dog.*

*The Emperor, surprised at this, summoned Androcles to him, who told him the whole story. The slave was pardoned and freed, and the Lion let loose to his native forest.*

It doesn't even matter that lions don't live in forests. The story is timeless because it speaks to something that each of us knows: improbable relationships that spring from gratitude for some long-ago act of kindness. Each of us nurtures deep bonds of affection, which trace their origins back to some long-ago gesture of grace. Who are you grateful for, what personal saint, living or dead? And how would that person want you to live-out your thanksgiving? Summer will be back, but these are things to ponder, as the days grow colder and the light grows shorter. 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

### INTERFAITH SERVICE HOSTED BY BOWER HILL

As we have done for the past 44 years, Bower Hill will join with Temple Emanuel, Our Lady of Grace, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and SHIM for our annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The 45th annual service will be held at Bower Hill on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:30 p.m. The clergy from each place of worship will participate in the service and each church will provide a musical selection.

As we are mindful of our many blessings, an offering will be collected for SHIM so that they can continue their good work for those in need. In addition to financial contributions, please bring a bag of non-perishable food items to help stock the SHIM food pantry. Please plan to join the Bower Hill Choir and Pastor Brian in this interfaith service.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST SWITCHES TO FIRST WEDNESDAY

Senior men's breakfast will meet on the first Wednesday of November, the 2nd. The group convenes at 8 a.m. at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike, near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. The meeting day will continue to be the first Wednesday of each month until next April. 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.

### LAST CALL FOR FLEA MARKET DONATIONS!

Please bring any donations for the flea market to the church by Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. **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. The Flea Market will be held Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!

On Sunday, **November 13**, 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 November, the foodbank requests dessert items for Holiday food baskets. Please include everything required to make the dessert, such as both cake mix and icing.



### PARISH LIFE PLANNING FUN AND FELLOWSHIP FOR BHCC!

#### THANKSGIVING-INSPIRED PROGRESSIVE DINNER: NOVEMBER 12: *NEW DATE!*

This event will give 'meals on wheels' a whole new meaning! We will be having a relatively classical Thanksgiving dinner, likely your first of the season, but each course will be served in a different home. Appetizers here, main course there, dessert somewhere else. More details will follow regarding this event. But if you would be willing to host/co-host one of the courses for this roaming revelry, please contact Michelle Snyder.

**December 3:** Snyder's Christmas open house

**January 14:** Snow Tubing!

**February 25:** Seven Springs ski trip (day trip)

### BOOKWORMS

Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room at BHCC, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Look to the bulletin for information on upcoming hostesses. Come and join a lively discussion. All are welcome!

**November:** *State of Wonder*  
by Anne Patchett

**Please Note:** Bookworms now meets  
in the Friendship Room

### BOOK EXCHANGE: NEW LOCATION

The books from the book exchange have been moved into the library on the shelves to the right side of the door as you enter. Books may be placed there to be shared with others, taken out to be read and then returned. There are hardback copies and paperbacks, both fiction and non-fiction, and recently added audio books — all donated by members of the congregation to be shared. Check it out!



**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!*

*Below is an update  
on how to help this Holiday Season!*



**SEND A MESSAGE; SPREAD THE MESSAGE**

We will soon be in the time of giving gifts and good wishes to friends and family. The BHCC Haiti Water Project team has two ways to help you with these tasks, and support the Water Project at the same time. We are selling note cards and Christmas cards using Pat Jacobs' beautiful nature photography.

The note cards are packaged in groups of eight, including two each of four scenes celebrating all four seasons, which cost \$12.00 per package. They make great gifts, as well as being handy to have on hand for sending your own notes.

The Christmas cards are packaged in groups of ten and cost \$15.00. Each package contains the same scene, and there are two choices. One features the most charming penguins imaginable, and one is a tranquil winter scene. In keeping with BHCC's commitment to our local community, as well as to global projects, the penguin photo was taken on the Jacobs' trip to Antarctica, and the winter scene right here in Upper St. Clair.

We are working on other card options to help you celebrate and congratulate friends and family through all life's events. Stay tuned for more!

Send a message as you spread the message of Christ's spirit working at BHCC.



**THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING** is changing. Instead of inviting you to the front of the church on the month when your birthday is celebrated, we will list your name in the first worship bulletin of that month and in the monthly newsletter. Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes! If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information. Please call 412-561-4114 with additions or corrections.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| November 1  | Kate Junker   |
| November 3  | Rev. Susan Shira Nilsen, Bill Spangenberg,<br>Josie Sheldon             |
| November 4  | Andy Hicks  |
| November 5  | Benjamin Maniet   |
| November 6  | Patrick Reisinger, Madelyn Salvante                                     |
| November 10 | Greta Snyder  |
| November 13 | Jim Corbett, Joann Vosburgh, Chuck Shaw Jr.,<br>Jason May, Ellie Rising |
| November 14 | Jim McAnulty, J.J. Harness  |
| November 15 | Donna Fielder   |
| November 17 | Kathy Hoedeman  |
| November 18 | Adam Kerner   |
| November 21 | Al Eisenbeis, Melanie May   |
| November 21 | Cassandra Gibbons   |
| November 22 | Ursula Pappas   |
| November 24 | Allison Lease   |
| November 25 | Michelle Snyder, Lisa Shwallon  |
| November 27 | Velma Noonan, Caroline Post   |
| November 28 | Chuck Laufer, Paul Kleist   |



Stewardship Sunday  
is November 13th.

Please bring your pledge  
cards to church that day.

Your continued support of  
Bower Hill Community  
Church is appreciated.

Thank you!

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP PLANS**

11/6: All Saints Sunday (Communion),  
Hebrews 12:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12  
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

11/13: Thanksgiving Observation  
Psalm 123 and Matthew 25:14-30  
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

11/20: Christ the King,  
Matthew 25:31-46 and Ezekiel 34:11-16  
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

11/27: First Sunday of Advent,  
Mark 13:24-37 and Isaiah 64:1-9  
Rev. Brian Snyder, preaching

**LECTORS**

**November 6:** Kirsten Bruder  
**November 13:** Nancy Salvante  
**November 20:** DJ Geis  
**November 27:** Joan Bridges

**GREETERS**

**November 6:** Marian Brannan, Lynn Foltz,  
Michelle Snyder  
**November 13:** Dave & Susan Hicks, Beth Wilson  
**November 20:** Alan & Betsy Hohlfelder, Keith Mason  
**November 27:** Woody & Barb Hughes, Christine Henney

**COMMUNION SERVERS**

D.J. Geis, Jr., Nancy Geis, Betsy & Alan Hohlfelder  
Choir: Lee Ferrero & Margaret Zabo

**COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY, REFORMATION AND SHIM IN NOVEMBER ADULT EDUCATION**

November opens with a presentation by Dr. John Wilson, professor of history at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, who will present "The Reformation Before Luther" on Sunday, **November 6**. Dr. Wilson will discuss Huss and Wycliffe as well as Luther.

The Stephen Ministry, a program to prepare lay persons for compassionate ministry, will be described by Jane Rising on **November 13**. The *Stephen Series* is a complete system for training and organizing lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to hurting people in and around a congregation. Several local churches participate in it.

SHIM, the South Hills Interfaith Ministry, will be the subject of our program on Sunday, **November 20**. Bower Hill Church has been helping to fund SHIM from our mission budget for many years. SHIM's Kate Snyder, community relations manager, and Courtney Macurak, director-Prospect Park Family Center, will speak.

There will be no adult education program on Sunday, **November 27**.

Adult education sessions are held in the church library at 10:45 AM 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).

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

In November, the children of BHCC will continue the "journey" that began with Abraham and Sarah and continues through four generations to learn how the Family of God began.

Classes will be held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. On November 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a combined class for children ages 3-10 years old during the church school hour. As this will be the first Sunday in Advent, we will begin our "wait" with activities around the Advent wreath.

Each Sunday there is continuing care for children ages 3-10 from 10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Lounge. Parents staying for Adult Education should take their children down to that room.

On November 13<sup>th</sup>, Jessica Baier will lead singing for all children in the Lounge from 10:45-11:15 a.m. Parents are then welcome to take them home, or leave them with Jessica until the conclusion of Adult Ed.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, Kathleen Krol organizes activities for the hour.



### MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER

[je@bhccml.com](mailto:je@bhccml.com)

#### Office Hours

**Sunday:** 7:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
**Monday:** 10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
 and 4:30 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

In October, we established an Acolyte program at Bower Hill. This is for children from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, to begin participating in the Worship service. The Acolyte with the candle-lighter will lead the Pastor and the Lector down the aisle at the beginning of Worship, lighting the candles on the Communion Table to symbolize God's presence in the church and God's light in our hearts. As the candles remain lit during the service, they remind us of God's presence with us as we worship. At the close of the service, the Acolyte will return to extinguish the candles on the Communion Table, but first will light the candle-lighter. Carrying the lit candle-lighter, the Acolyte will then lead the Pastor and the Lector out into the narthex. As the flame leaves the sanctuary, we are remembering God who lives in our hearts, and we are commissioned to take God's light into the world by our witness and faith.

*"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."*

*John 8:12*

The word Acolyte comes from the Greek word *acolytos*, which means companion, helper, or attendant. This practice has its origin in the Old Testament, when we see the prophet Samuel assisting Eli the priest (1 Samuel 3). The history of Acolytes is present in many Christian denominations, each denomination having variations of responsibilities. In the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Episcopal churches, the duties include being an altar server and cross bearer, as well as being the candle-lighter. In most Protestant churches, the Acolyte is responsible for assisting the minister throughout the Worship service.

As the Holiday seasons are approaching, the Handbell and Chancel Choirs are busy preparing music for several services. The Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service is at Bower Hill Church this year, and both choirs will join to provide music for this service. We are also thankful to have special prelude music at this service offered by George Vosburgh.

The Handbell Choir has been invited to play a Holiday Concert at Concordia of the South Hills. The concert will be Wednesday, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. We will play a variety of pieces, including 'Carol of the Bells,' 'Let There Be Peace on Earth,' 'People Look East,' and a medley of secular tunes of pieces like 'Up on the Housetop' and 'Jingle Bells.'

### MAKING BLANKETS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS SERVED BY FAMILY PROMISE

Date: Thursday, November 10, 2011  
 Place: Lounge of Bower Hill Church  
 Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

No sewing skills needed

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

Using provided kits, we will be cutting and tying to make 18 blankets for children and adults served by Family Promise, formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network

Please sign up in the Church Narthex .

Questions: Call Joan McAnulty 412-489-3820 or LuAnn McNickle 412-531-7834



Youth Director Chelsea Leitcher

[ch@bhccml.com](mailto:ch@bhccml.com)

Office Hours: MONDAY  
 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting our "hoagie sale" to fund the youth work trip; the sale was a great success! The youth group continues to participate in a wide array of fall activities. In October we worked with the Parish Life Committee in hosting a hayride and trip to the pumpkin patch at Simmons Farm. On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the youth went to Garfield Community Farm to work and learn about the ways that wonderful ministry is helping serve the Pittsburgh community.

We will begin our Christmas Wreath Sale by taking orders for wreaths following worship the weekends of October 30, November 6 and November 13. Wreaths are \$20 each and proceeds will support the youth work trip.

We continue to thank God for all your ongoing prayers and support.

Blessings,  
 Chelsea

OFFICE NOTE: Chelsea's office hours have changed to MONDAY.



## FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED

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:

### BAKERS NEEDED

We 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, November 18<sup>th</sup>, sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

### FLEA MARKET STAFF NEEDED

#### Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>: Final pricing days

Stop by the loft after coffee hour or after adult ed. Snacks will be provided.

#### Wednesday November 16<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.: Bringing Down the Boxes

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

#### Thursday November 17<sup>h</sup> 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 to stay all day, you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

#### Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. -?

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

#### Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Sale Day

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

**DON'T FORGET FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!**



## Flea Market

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

FROM 8:30 A.M. -3:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THERESA CHILD

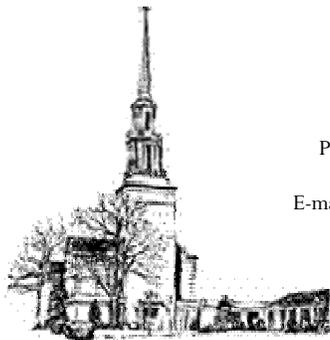
412-429-9519

TRETOOWON@YAHOO.COM.

# 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  
[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.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

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

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

**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

**Jeanne Olsen**, 1001 Ajay Drive, South Park, PA 15129

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

**Tooie Sharkey**, Asbury Place, 760 Bower Hill Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243