

**“Our Burning Hearts”**

*“And they said to each other, ‘Were our hearts not burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?’” ~Luke 24:32*

Members and Friends,

There comes a time in life when “burning hearts” are no laughing matter. Our burning hearts can keep us awake at night. We all know at least one person who—in their middle years or older—rushed off to the emergency room only to discover that what felt like a heart attack was nothing more than heartburn. And yet, the gospel writer Luke uses the term “burning hearts” to describe an extraordinary tinge of recognition that two sad disciples felt when they encountered a stranger on the road to Emmaus.

“Emmaus” is my favorite Easter story. It reads like a parable. Two unknown disciples—minor characters in the drama of Jesus’ life—are walking home after the crucifixion. Some stranger sidles up to them and asks them why they’re so sad, and so they tell him the story of Jesus’ short ministry and tragic death. When the two arrive home, the stranger keeps on walking as if he’s bound for some destination beyond Emmaus. But they say, “Abide with us. It’s almost night, and the day is far spent.” And though this stranger is now their guest, he behaves like the host when they sit down to dinner. He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, then gives the blessed broken pieces back to them. And in that memorable act, their eyes are opened. They recognize the stranger as the one who broke the bread with trembling hands on the awful night of his arrest. Then he’s gone. Except that he’s not really gone, for the whole point of the story is that he is with us even when we don’t recognize him. He is with us on the dusty road, in the byways of life. Most especially, he is with us when we’re breaking bread with each other, sharing our lives, and offering hospitality to the stranger.

Easter will come, in its pastel glory. The mild winter will give up all pretense of being in control, yielding the gray stage of the world to birds, and buds, and blossoms. On that morning, there will be trumpets and cellos. The sanctuary will smell like lilies. You’ll find strangers sitting in your pew, but you won’t even mind because the spirit of that day will be joy. Joy! Even more than Christmas, Easter is a season for joy. On Easter we cannot forget the great truth that we spend most of our days ignoring: Death is strong, but life is stronger. And all the things that tend toward death in our world—the illnesses, the violence, the fear, the broken relationships, the broken spirits, the powerful systems of devastation and greed—all these things will be swallowed up in the joy of new life...eventually. We don’t have to understand it. We don’t have to make ourselves believe it. (Never try to *make* yourself believe anything!) But at Easter, somehow, if only for a moment, we know it. In the end, no human suffering is beyond healing. No human wrong is beyond redeeming. In the end, God tenderly gathers the broken pieces, blesses them, and makes of them new life. And then... gives those broken pieces back to us, like so much bread, for the life of the world.

When does that happen? How does it happen? Under what circumstances? In whose company? I don’t know. Your burning heart will tell you. 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



## SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 22:** Youth Spaghetti Dinner  
**May 5:** Cinco D'Mayo Party  
**June 9:** Scavenger Hunt!

### SENIOR CHAT AT PANERA

Join other BHCC Seniors for conversation and company at Panera Bread in the Galleria Shopping Mall on Tuesday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m.

### SENIOR MEN'S GROUP: FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Wednesday, April 4, 2012. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike, near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. Beginning in May and continuing through October, the group will switch its meeting day to the first Tuesday of the month. 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.

### 33RD ANNUAL HOLOCAUST OBSERVANCE SERVICE

Sugihara: Circle of Courage  
 Sunday April 29  
 7:30—8:30 p.m.  
 Temple Emanuel of South Hills  
 1250 Bower Hill Road  
 Pittsburgh, PA 152143

Coordinated in partnership  
 with South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM)

### 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.



**April 17:** *Unbroken :  
 A World War II Story of Survival,  
 Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura  
 Hillenbrand.

### FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!



On Sunday, April 8, 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. A special need for boxed cereal has been highlighted by foodbank volunteers.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SAVE THE DATES

Bower Hill Community Church will offer Vacation Bible School June 18th through June 22nd from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The Christian Education committee has selected a new curriculum for this year's Vacation Bible School. We will be using the "Living Waters for the World" curriculum. It comes from the same company that trained our members for the Haiti Water Project. We are very excited about working closely with the Hohlfelders, Leases and Jacobs as our children learn about water, the world's water crisis and our responsibility to care for others.



### VOLUNTEERS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pittsburgh Presbytery needs the help of many volunteers to host the 2012 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) here June 28 through July 7.

Information is available on the Committee On Local Arrangement's website, COLA2012.org. Beginning March 1, the web site will include a link to "Volunteers." Dave Green, 412-531-2205, is our church's contact with the committee, and will be available to discuss volunteer opportunities after March 16. Dave is specifically working on a hospitality information center that will be located in the David Lawrence Convention Center, the location of the General Assembly.

### PAPER RECYCLING AT BHCC



**Paper Drive**

A paper recycling bin has been placed in our north parking lot. This is a project of our Cub Scout Pack 28, who will promote the bin in the area and share any proceeds from the recycled paper with the church. Please bring your recyclable newspapers, magazines, mail and office papers to our own recycling bin.



**APRIL 1: PALM SUNDAY ~ PASSION SUNDAY**

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated by approaching the Table during the reading of the Passion narrative. Texts are Luke chapters 22 and 23.

**APRIL 5: MAUNDY THURSDAY**

This service of communion is celebrated at tables in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m. After the sacrament, participants will move silently to the sanctuary for a half-hour candlelight cantata by the choir.

**APRIL 6: GOOD FRIDAY**

Bower Hill Church will participate in the community Good Friday Service at Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church. The service begins at noon. Pastor Snyder will be preaching, and our choir will be singing, between 2:35 and 3:00 p.m. This a service of "The Seven Words" that Jesus uttered from the cross, and Bower Hill has been invited to expound on the seventh word, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit," Luke 23:44-49.

**APRIL 8: EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND SERVICE**

*Please note the time change!*



Our all-church Easter Awakening Breakfast  
begins at 9:00 a.m.  
Special Easter music in the sanctuary starts at 9:30 a.m.



**Worship begins at 10!**

Text is Mark 16:1-8. Rev. Snyder is preaching.

**APRIL 15: SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

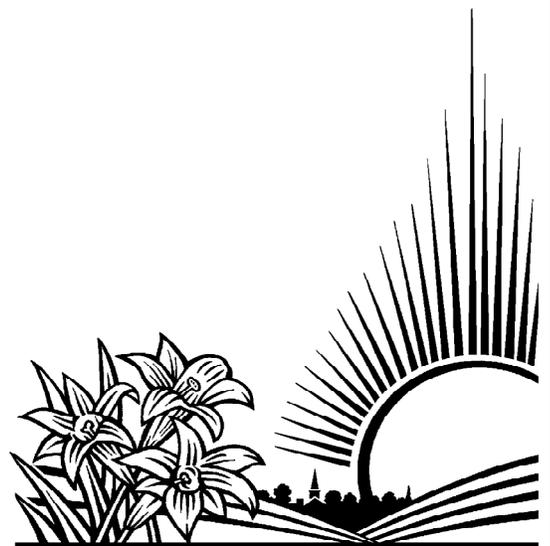
Worship returns to 9:30.  
Texts are Acts 4:32-35 and John 20:19-31.  
"Doubting Thomas."  
Rev. Snyder is preaching.

**APRIL 22: THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Texts are Acts 3:12-19 and Luke 24:13-35.  
"The Road to Emmaus."  
Rev. Snyder is preaching.

**APRIL 29: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Texts are Acts 10:34-43 and John 10:11-18.  
Rev. Snyder is preaching.





## APRIL WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Dave Stewart, Jim & Bev Burke, Mary Lou Frock

### LECTORS

**April 1:** Margaret Zabo

**April 8:** Dave Green

**April 15:** Chelsea Leitcher

**April 22:** D J Geis

**April 29:** David Harris

### GREETERS

**April 1:** Jim & Bev Burke, Beth Wilson

**April 8:** Curt & Cathy Philson, Cynthia Gissin

**April 15:** Linda Szyslowski, Margie Sewall, Ginny Starr

**April 22:** Dennis & Nancy Geis, Judy Delestienne

**April 29:** Jim & Bev Burke, Dawn Kane

### ACOLYTES

**April 1:** Evie Harris, Madelyn Salvante

**April 8:** Graceann Foster, Sydney Saba

**April 15:** Lindsay Bruder, Sage Williams

**April 22:** Ellie Rising, Todd Westerhoff

**April 29:** Evie Harris, Madelyn Salvante

### APRIL COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

**April 1:** Dave & Nancy Green

**April 8:** No coffee hour, join us for Easter Breakfast!

**April 15:** Jim & Bev Burke

**April 22:** Jason & Kiri Rising

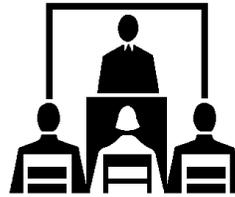
**April 29:** Doris Olinger & Marian Brannan



### FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP

During the adult education hour, a new group is meeting to discuss issues of faith. The Faith Discussion Group is a relaxed forum for adults to dialogue about the challenges, joys, and mysteries of the life of faith. Anyone is welcome to participate! The group meets from 10:45 to 11:45 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the Conference Room (just opposite the church offices).

There is no teacher and no group leader, though the pastor may occasionally facilitate discussions. Conversation is free to wander on any topic, but our starting place is typically the morning sermon, its Scripture text, and its main points. Child-care is available. (NB: No class on Easter Day!)



### APRIL ADULT EDUCATION

On Palm Sunday, Pastor Snyder will lead a discussion on "Living the Resurrection" from the DVD series "Living the Questions." There will be no adult education program on Easter Sunday.

On April 15, Debbie Underwood, mother of Nancy Salvante of our congregation and member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, will tell us about her experience working two months as a nurse in a Presbyterian hospital in Malawi, Africa.

Valerie Green, part of the group working to bring back the Denis Theater as an art film venue in Mt. Lebanon, will report on the progress of that project on April 22.

Dissident groups within the Presbyterian Church have been meeting to consider their relationship with the denomination. Our Clerk of Session Bill Cadwell has been studying the situation and will report on this development on April 29.

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).

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

#### April 1: Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday the children will sing in church with the Chancel choir and then leave to attend Sunday School. Plan to bring children to church by 9:00 a.m. that day.

#### April 8: Easter Sunday

On Easter, there will be a combined Sunday School class for children from three to 10 years of age. Children will leave church after the message to the children.





**MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER**

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.

**EASTER NOTES**

On Easter Sunday, special music will start at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service. This year, I am being joined by Rich Salvante on the violin and my colleague, Dave Busch, on cello. We are going to be playing selections written by English composer Alec Rowley. Rowley (1892-1958) taught composition at Trinity College in London, writing pieces for organ, orchestra, wind instruments, voice, piano trio (piano, violin, cello), etc. His compositions were aired regularly on the BBC.

**HANDBELL FESTIVAL**

The Handbell Choir will participate in the Western PA Handbell Festival on Saturday, April 14, at Robert Morris College in Moon Township. We will be rehearsing throughout the day, as well as participating in classes given by the Three Rivers Ringers, who regularly perform in our sanctuary. There will be a public concert, free of charge, at 5:30 p.m. that evening. Please come to support the Bower Hill Handbell Choir!



**Youth Director Chelsea Leitcher**

ch@bhccml.com

**Good Food For a Good Cause**

**The Annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Sunday April 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

*Enjoy our famous spaghetti sauce...*

*Delight your senses with a crisp, fresh salad bar...*

*Tempt yourself with delicious desserts...*

**Tickets are still only \$8.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 12 and under, \$25.00 max. per family, and can be purchased in advance or at the door.**

**(Take out also available.)**

*Proceeds benefit the BHCC Senior High Work Trip. For info on tickets and volunteer opportunities contact BHCC Youth Director Chelsea Leitcher.*



**THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING**

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.

**April 02** Rev. Jack Hodges

**April 03** Barb Brown

**April 04** George Freas

**April 06** Jeff Kerner  
Mark Mezyk

**April 07** Christi Cole  
Ashleigh Snead

**April 08** Marian Brannan

**April 11** Theresa Child  
Scott Ryfun

**April 12** Sophia Smith

**April 13** Mimi Starr  
Brandon Williams

**April 14** James Szyslowski

**April 15** Patti Hansen

**April 16** William Harris

**April 19** Pete Fenton  
Ainsley McDonough

**April 22** Linda Stewart  
Owen Geis

**April 23** Chuck Prine  
Kirsten Bruder

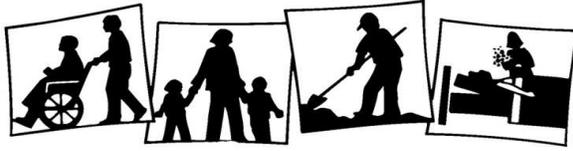
**April 24** Margaret Zabo  
Graham Knox

**April 25** Alan Hohlfelder

**April 27** Sarah Colley

**April 28** Julie Harris

**LOOK WHO WAS BORN THIS MONTH**



## MISSION UPDATES

### THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY UPDATE

We recently made our final delivery of books to the Academy and it was incredibly inspiring. They have moved into their new location in East Liberty and it is truly exciting to see the students and staff in their new facilities. We urge you to go for a tour of the buildings. You can contact Sheila Rawlings at 412-626-6851 or go to their web site for a list of tour dates. They have asked us to stop collecting books as the library is now full. They are still in need of school supplies and other items: we will be organizing a drive to collect those items sometime in the months ahead. But in the meantime, we should all be very pleased with our support of, and involvement with, this outstanding organization that is providing college preparatory educational opportunities for low income children.

### GREEN GROCERS UPDATE

The Green Grocers of BHCC, who deliver produce from the Village Square Giant Eagle in Bethel/St.Clair to Miryam's House each Sunday, are looking for a few more good people to assume responsibility for delivering periodically. We currently have no one to deliver on the fifth Sunday of the month (four times per year) and we also need more people to agree to be substitutes, to fill in when needed. A station wagon or SUV is needed to transport the produce to Miryam's, which is located downtown near the new Consol Energy Arena. While the folks at Giant Eagle are usually able to lend a hand in loading, and there are generally people at Miryam's that assist with the unloading, the boxes can be a little heavy. It takes less than two hours to complete this important task and it is a very worthwhile experience. If you think this would be your type of outreach opportunity, and you would like to join the Green Grocer Team, please contact Dave Hicks at 412-833-7753 (home) or 412-427-6606 (cell) or via email at davehicks@yahoo.com. Thanks to all the current members of the team, you are doing a great job.

### DONATION STATIONS: WHAT TO DO!

Friends and members, the Mission and Outreach committee would like to thank those of you who are always so generous with their donations. In an attempt to keep our Narthex neat and our donations organized, we ask that you place donated items in the proper bins. Presently, food for Wallace Food Pantry is being collected in the Narthex and items for the Haiti Water Project are being collected outside of the Friendship Room. All donations are to be placed in the labeled large bins. If you have other things that you would like to donate, please contact Keith Mason or Kiri Rising. If you are unable to get your donations to the appropriate locations, please label them so they get to the proper place.



Please welcome  
the following new members  
to the BHCC family:

Troy & Emily Bailey

Christie Cole  
(spouse: Nick; children: Melanie, Katelyn, Lindsay)

David & Julie Harris (daughter: Evelyn)

Will Harris

Mark & Lynn Mezyk (children: Anna, Gabriel)

Chris & Ruth Robbins (children: Michela, Drake)

Francine Rose

Look to a future issue of the BHCC newsletter  
for pictures and biography information!



## Memorial Gift

A memorial gift of metal, white tube candles, which hold inner wax candles that will be used in the candelabras, was selected and has been purchased from money given in memory of Edith Harper.

Mrs. Harper, who died in 2001, was the mother of Anne Mitchell. She had relocated from Oil City to Mt. Lebanon, living until her death at Asbury Heights. She often attended BHCC with Anne and Gordon until health issues prevented her from doing so.

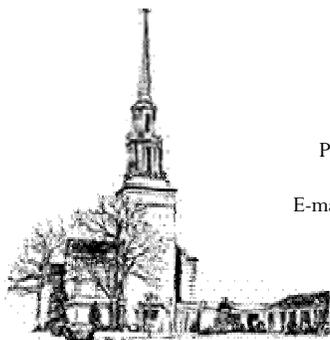
This gift is received with gratitude for the life of Edith Harper and the beauty it will bring to special services of worship in the sanctuary.



## 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. Calvin C. Wilson  
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  
[office@bhccml.com](mailto:office@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