

~A Book of Life~

"The Lord said to me, 'Eat this book that I give you. Eat your fill of it.'

I ate it, and it was sweet..."

~Ezekiel 3:3

Dear Friends,

The book is about three inches thick. Layers of yellowed tape hold a tattered cover to a broken spine. But faded pictures are still visible through the tape. There's a mother bear in Victorian dress. A whip-wielding rat, seated on a pumpkin with wheels—Cinderella's carriage after midnight. A frog in coattails and top hat. An Indian nobleman riding atop a richly decorated elephant. The book's title is washed-out but legible in the quaint script of a bygone age: *Young Years: Best Loved Stories and Poems for Children*. It's a children's book, yes, but when I unearthed it in my parents' attic, about five years ago, I told my children that they were not allowed to touch it. The book was too fragile, and too old, and too dear to my heart to fall into the hands of real life children!

In addition to well-known tales, the book includes fables, and poems, and lesser known stories from the Brothers Grimm. Turning back the cover, flimsy with age, I felt doubly justified in keeping the book away from my kids. Many of the stories are dark and far more gruesome than contemporary versions. The first two pigs don't escape; they get devoured by the wolf, after which the third pig...eats the wolf. Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother meets a similar fate. The punishment for Snow White's wicked queen is to be fitted with "red hot iron shoes, in which she had to dance until she fell down dead." Some stories in my old book are so shocking and violent that they don't even appear in modern collections, like the gothic "Jack the Giant Killer," not to be confused with "Jack and the Beanstalk." How had my four siblings and I survived these stories? And on top of all this, much of the book's language is lofty and archaic.

Though I didn't allow my kids to handle my old book, I did read it to them—simplifying the language and sifting out the violence as I went. My daughters protested, "That's not what Sleeping Beauty looks like! That's not how Aladdin is supposed to end! That doesn't look like the Beast!" And it's true. The pictures and the storylines in my old book are uninfluenced by Walt Disney. Pinocchio looks like a bowling pin carved out of wood. The Beast looks like a wild boar. The story of Rapunzel doesn't include its Disney hero, Flynn. And yet, as I leaf through the pages of my old storybook—which had been a Christmas present to me in 1971—I realize that these pictures shaped my young mind, and they are lodged forever deep in my memory and imagination. The images from this very book worked their way into my thoughts, molding me, giving me narratives and even "visuals" by which to understand the difference between good and bad, kindness and cruelty, generosity and selfishness. In some formative way, this book gave me a handle on the world.

Nowadays, I allow my kids to do whatever they want with the book. And since it doesn't take batteries, and it doesn't connect to the Internet, they mostly ignore it. Like most modern children, they have so many books, and gadgets, and toys that one more is just...one more. I have no hope that they will be as shaped by its images and tales as I was. And yet, I do wonder what pictures and stories will help to form their young minds. From what imaginative sources will they draw their visions of good and bad, freedom and bondage, home and exile?

I recently heard a preacher say that imagination and faith have nothing to do with each other. I disagree. People live by stories. All our life long, we cling to images that we collected somewhere in childhood. Some of the stories and images that we live by are healthy and good, whereas others are not. The Scriptures are the long, long story of how our faith ancestors experienced God in their lives and world. The Scriptures shape our collective imagination as a church. They give us stories to live by, parables by which to understand our world. Some of those stories are better than others, and none can be used to teach science or history. But they become God's Word to us when the Spirit brushes up against them and speaks their truths anew into the day-to-day situations that we face. What stories do you live by? What age-old images do you cherish? And how do they shape the person you are today?

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

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 6 & 7: Faith In Action (FIA)

Oct. 13: Haiti Comedy Night

Oct. 26-28: Women's Retreat

Dec. 8: Snyder's annual Christmas open house will be held Saturday, Dec. 8th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All are welcome.



THANKSGIVING PROGRESSIVE DINNER

The Progressive Dinner is back! This event was so popular last year, we brought it back again. On Saturday, November 3rd, we will meet at the home of Bob & Joan Bridges, drinks in hand, to start our evening with appetizers. We will then proceed to multiple homes for our main course and will rejoin at the home of Jim and Bev Burke for dessert. Sign-up sheet is on the community bulletin board. *Note: we are still looking for a few hosts for the main course. Home should be big enough to comfortably hold (but not necessarily seat around a table) 15-20 people. Hosts will be assigned volunteers to help prepare their portion of the meal. See Michelle Snyder if you are willing and able. ** 2nd Note: While we will not be able to provide childcare for everyone, if a lack of childcare is the reason you would not be able to attend, please see Michelle Snyder. The church may be able to make some limited childcare available.



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Tuesday, October 2. 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.

FLEA MARKET NEWS

Collection for the fall flea market has officially begun. 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. **PLEASE do not include clothes.** All items must be clean and in working condition. This year's flea market will be held Saturday, November 17th. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or at treetoowon@yahoo.com.

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.



October 16: "Thunder Dog"
by Michael Hingson

WANTED: CHURCH HISTORIAN

We have discovered a 90-page, single-spaced personal history of Bower Hill Church, written in the late 1970s, that needs to be updated. We also have a collection of early church photographs that need to be organized. We can scan the personal history and photos into the church computer but that is just the beginning. Would someone (or someones) like to play church historian and create an up-to-date church history of text and pictures? If so, please contact Emily in the office.



Food Collection

FOOD DRIVE: EVERY SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH

Wallace Food Pantry is working to collect food items that they will need to provide Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner supplies to all their client families. The primary need is for boxed or bagged potato mixes, such as au gratin, scalloped, mashed, etc. Also welcome are cranberry sauce and boxed stuffing. Basics like dry cereal, canned tuna, and soups are always appreciated.

DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE.....?

Most churches have two problems that they deal with:

- 1) 20% of the people do 80% of the work.
- 2) there are masses of people, eager to get involved without knowing how.

Bower Hill is not immune from this situation. In an effort to tackle both challenges at the same time, Session has created a 'wish list' of jobs that need to be done and opportunities to participate in the life of the church. The bulletin board of opportunities is hanging outside the nursery beside the community board. Take a look. Sign up. Someone will contact you. It's just that easy.

HOOKS AND NEEDLES

At our meeting on September 1, we surprised Dottie Carter on her 88th birthday with a "party." We had cupcakes with candles, Dixie cups and beverages. Dottie's long-time friend, Alice Cantalupo, was present for the party also.

After celebrating, Alice went home, and the rest of us continued with our knitting, crocheting and cross stitching. As usual, we talked and laughed a lot.

This is such a fun group. Please consider joining us for fellowship and possibly learning a few new techniques. We meet on the first and third Saturdays of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the church lounge



2012 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Are you apprehensive to talk with others about spiritual stuff — your faith, God, the religious aspects of your life? How do you start without sounding awkward or, worse, like a crazy Christian? How do you respond in a conversation where you just don't have the right words to express your spiritual side? We will explore this topic during the next Women's Retreat the weekend of October 26th – 28th. On the lighter side, there's always the fun of being away together!

We will meet at the Gilmory Center located just beyond the Pittsburgh airport. Because it is so close, we will leave after dinner that Friday night, carpooling from the church parking lot at 7:00 p.m. Cost for the weekend is \$95. Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a beautiful fall weekend. Feel free to contact Kiri Rising (412-851-1503), Nancy Salvante (412-892-9977) or Mary Good (412-341-0291) with any questions.



THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING

- October 2: Anne Mitchell
- October 3: Madeline Good
- October 5: Tyler Kane
- October 6: Heather Wylie
- October 9: Woody Hughes
- October 10: Eleanora Freas
Tooie Sharkey
- October 11: Jason Rising
- October 12: Andrejs Baumhammers
Carol Swed
Sara Waller

- October 17: Ryan Kelley
Lesley Olinger
- October 18: Trisha Eliason
- October 19: Mary Ketchum
- October 22: Allison Gibbons
- October 24: Dave Stewart
- October 26: Dorothy Post
- October 29: Char Balentine
- October 30: Curt Philson

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.

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**LECTORS**

October 7: Susan Hicks
October 14: Rich Salvante
October 21: D. J. Geis
October 28: Mary Beth Waine

ACOLYTES

October 7: Leo Geis, Sydney Saba
October 14: Lyden Cameron, Sage Williams
October 21: Lindsay Bruder, Madelyn Salvante
October 28: Grace Foster, Nate Rising

GREETERS

October 7: Steve & Debbie Boisvert, Dottie Carter
October 14: Jason & Beth Robosky, Nancy Criswell
October 21: Nancy & Richard Salvante, Judy Delestienne
October 28: Nancy & Denis Geis, Theresa Child

COMMUNION SERVERS

Kirsten Bruder, Lynn Foltz, Dave & Susan Hicks, Choir: Rick & Pat Jacobs

**OCTOBER ADULT EDUCATION**

Adult Discussion will not take place on Sunday, October 7, due to Faith in Action Sunday. However, the final three Sundays in October will feature both social action and faith concept topics.

Sunday, October 14 will present a discussion of local youth gangs by Erni Frederick, who had been a trainer for Youth Guidance, Inc., and who is now involved in the Pittsburgh Prayer Network. He is seeking church groups who want to "Adopt a Gang for Prayer."

Evolution of the doctrine of the Trinity will be explained by Dr. Ronald Cole-Turner, professor of theology and ethics at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, on **Sunday, October 21**. He will discuss how we can claim the doctrine of the Trinity without doing violence to our sense of reason.

"A Passion for Christ: Paul," a chapter from the DVD series *Living the Questions*, will be led by our pastor, The Rev. Brian Snyder, on **Sunday, October 28**.

Adult discussion 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.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PLANS**October 7**

World Communion Sunday & Faith in Action.
 Job 1:1, 2:1-10.

October 14

20th Sunday after Pentecost.
 Job 23:1-9, 16-17.

October 21

21st Sunday after Pentecost.
 Job 38:1-7, 34-41

October 28

Reformation Sunday
 Job 42:1-6, 10-17

MUSIC NOTES BY JESSICA BAIER
je@bhccml.com

Office Hours

Sunday: 7:00 a.m.— 12:00 p.m.
Monday: 10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.— 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, Friday, Saturday as needed



HANDBELL CHOIR: WEDNESDAYS AT 6:00 PM
CHANCEL CHOIR: WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM

On Saturday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bower Hill Church Sanctuary, our Director of Music, Jessica Baier, will join with colleague Ryan Wolf, to present a combined concert of organ and trumpet music.

A variety of genres will be offered, including a Concerto for trumpet and organ composed by Leopold Mozart, a Latin piece featuring Mr. Wolf on the trumpet, and an arrangement by Virgil Fox on the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God," played on the organ.



SOME CHANGES AT BOWER HILL:

- **COFFEE HOUR HAS MOVED TO FELLOWSHIP HALL:**
It's a good problem to have when you outgrow the room you were using for coffee hour and that is what has happened. For that reason, coffee hour is now located in the Fellowship Hall.
- **OPEN SPACES HAS MOVED TO THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM:**
Open Spaces, the new adult education class, no longer meets in the Conference Room but meets in the Friendship Room (the old coffee hour room).
- **COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARDS:**
Never know where to sign up for things that are going on and being announced? Problem solved. Outside the nursery are two large bulletin boards where all sign-up sheets and event advertising will be posted.



**Youth Director Chelsea
Leitcher**

Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 a.m.— Noon

Friday: 9:00 — Noon

ch@bhccml.com

The youth group is back into the fall swing of things. We have begun a new program called "Second Sundays" where every second Sunday of the month we go as a group out to brunch and then to a fun activity (this month was mini-golfing). This gives us more opportunities to get the whole gang together. In addition, we have begun our fall Bible studies looking at the history of the Kings of Israel and we continue to participate in community service events. In October, we will begin our annual Hoagie Sale Fundraiser (more details to follow). We thank everyone in the BHCC family for continued prayers and support.

Blessings,
Chelsea Leitcher
Youth Director



COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Since it's been a while, the Communication Committee thought it was time to communicate to you about our recent activities. We have finished another ad for the print media. This brings us to a total of four. Our intent is to rotate these four for the next couple of years, as repetition is a necessary part of advertising.

You may have noticed that all of the ads have the same format, of which one component is the use of stained glass. This helps our "brand recognition" in that people begin to think of Bower Hill each time they see the format. Also, we have created similar formats for posters and postcards. Our plans are to incorporate the images into the web site. The idea is to have consistency for all media we produce for outside consumption.

We are embarking on a post card campaign to those who recently moved to the area within a certain distance from Bower Hill. The first set of post cards should have been mailed as you read this. We are continuing to explore the creation of some short videos about the church.

Another activity is to encourage the use of the website and Facebook. We have been trying to post more information and encourage discussion on Facebook. The use of Facebook is slowly growing. We recognize that use of the website and especially Facebook is not everyone's cup of tea. Facebook is like most things in life: it can be used to help enhance your life or it can become a distraction. Facebook can be great to connect with family and friends, especially those with whom you have limited interaction. On the negative side, often the postings are trivial and a lot of time can be wasted finding the useful information.

Since the use of our website and Facebook are foreign concepts to some of our members, the Communication Committee thought it would be helpful to offer assistance in learning about them. Glenn Child of our committee is willing to meet with members, one-on-one or in small groups, to teach the basics of Facebook or how to navigate our web site. If you have a computer or internet access, this can be done in your home. An alternative is to use the church computers. Glenn can show you how to get started, including signing up for Facebook. Call Glenn at 412-831-3429 if interested.

Thanks for all of your support for our efforts. While we hope our efforts get the word about Bower Hill out into the community, remember it's the personal interaction in the community and with visitors that really sells people on wanting to be a part of our community.



BOWER HILL IS GETTING YOUNGER

By Rick Jacobs

On kickoff Sunday, did you notice the crowd of children gathered for the Children's sermon? I had a good view, sitting in the choir loft, and I counted 26 children! It made my heart soar and I turned to Pat and said: "There is the future of Bower Hill." Not so long ago, you could count the kids in worship on one hand.

These kids bring their parents with all their talents, energy and enthusiasm. They are providing creative music for worship, inaugurating new education classes, energizing Session and its committees, invigorating mission projects, reenergizing parish life and challenging Bower Hill to grow and become more relevant in their lives. It's an exciting time in the life of our church, and we need to be very supportive of these new members as they find their way into the life of the church.

One way we can help is to make sure that there is reliable babysitting during and after worship on Sundays and for church events during the week. We currently have a paid babysitter, Kathy Kroll, who babysits on Sunday during worship and Adult Education. Jessica Baier watches the older children

(4-11 years) during the education hour after worship. Sometimes there are illnesses or emergencies, which result in vacancies for this care, and there is a scramble to find volunteers to fill the gap. The Administration & Personnel committee wants to improve this situation.

The committee will accept responsibility for oversight of the babysitting needs of the church. We will be implementing a procedure to recruit volunteers in advance of the babysitting need. We're looking for a babysitting coordinator and a list of volunteers who would be available to babysit on Sundays or for church events during the week. The coordinator would use a call list to arrange for volunteer babysitting when the need arises. This should ensure that we have babysitting for all church activities and eliminate the scramble on Sunday mornings.

If you would like to be on the volunteer list for occasional babysitting on Sunday or during the week, or if you are interested in the coordinator position, please contact the church office, or a member of the A&P committee (Rick Jacobs, Mary Beth Waive, Bill Cadwell, Judy Delestienne, Woody Hughes). We would like to have a dozen volunteers and a couple of coordinators. This is a great way to serve Bower Hill and support our new young families.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SESSION MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 2012

Because the Food and Faith class over the summer was so well received, it was the sense of Session that adult classes should be offered in the future during summer months when the formal Adult Education program is suspended.

Session voiced general approval for permitting the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) to use a room in the church for their counseling activities.

The Mission and Outreach Committee requested Session approval to convert the grassy area behind the church into a community garden. This will involve tilling and framing the area and placing rain barrels for irrigation during Faith in Action weekend, and planting the area next spring. Produce from the garden will be used to feed the needy of our area through SHIM. Session agreed in principle with this request, with a few details still being considered.

Session approved placement of a community bulletin board between the two doors of the Nursery, under responsibility of the Parish Life Committee.

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FUNNY FEATURE



DAVID MICHAEL
'SECRETS FROM THE GREEN ROOM'

MUSICAL HOST



TOM MUSIAL

Plus Raffles

SATURDAY  **OCTOBER 13**

Help Us Raise Funds With LAUGHTER!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1066 Washington Road - Mount Lebanon, PA 15228

\$25 Donation ★ Snacks Provided ★ BYOB (Wine & Beer Only)
Doors Open: 7:00pm ★ Show: 7:30pm ★ 21 & Over

Tickets on Sale at Bower Hill Community Church - 70 Moffet St. - Pgh 15243

For More Information Call Mary at 412-341-0291

WWW.SLAPSTICKPRODUCTIONS.COM



STONE SOUP

*Life within us, Love between us, Joining us as one.
 With soil and air and living things, with water and with sun.
 Make us hopeful. Make us faithful.
 Make us know our worth.
 Helping others in their need and caring for your earth.
 Amen*

As advertised throughout the summer, the Food and Faith class met for five weeks to discuss all manner of things related to....well, food and faith. The discussions were lively and animated as we challenged each other on issues of sustainable living, overpopulation, convenience eating, gardening, and what faithful stewardship of our resources and each other looks like in 2012. The prayer above, a meal time prayer, was written by one of our participants as a result of one of our discussions on food, traditions, community, responsibility, and faith. Our last session was spent brainstorming ways we will think and live differently as a result of our time together, out of which was born the title "stone soup." We concluded that, while the problems are legion, we can each bring something to the table that enhances the life of the world and makes room for more people at the table.

Below is the list of brainstormed ideas that will be worked on throughout the course of the year by the interested, willing and able. If you too are interested, jump on board. Grab Juliet Cameron, Alan or Betsy Hohlfelder, DJ or Sheri Geis, Steve or Debbie Boisvert, Bill Wegner or Jean Miewald, Susan Nilsen, Kiri Rising, Rich or Nancy Salvante, Bill Cadwell, Marian Brannan, Troy or Emily Bailey, Margaret Delair or Brian or Michelle Snyder and start conversation about how you want to get involved, make a change, or think critically about issues of food and faith.

The suggestions born out of our time together were as follows:

- 1) *We will be planting a garden on church property with the kids participating in the building/planting/harvesting of said garden. The produce will be donated to SHIM for their food pantry efforts.*
- 2) *We will work with the Mission Committee to increase our participation in and awareness of Bread for the World's political activism.*
- 3) *We will consult with the adult Christian Ed Committee about the possibility of bringing in GrowPittsburgh and or local politicians to discuss issues related to food security and food justice issues.*
- 4) *We will raise congregational awareness and education through the newsletter/bulletin (just like I'm doing) about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) options, gardening help, recipes, etc.*
- 5) *Some in our group wanted to take on personal projects. One couple has already started the journey of giving up beef for a year (due to its global impact). One couple is interested in doing a Lenten experiment of eating on a 'food stamp budget.' One family is curious to know how long they could eat out of their own house without going to the grocery store. We will encourage each other in our projects and see where they go.*
- 6) *We will explore the idea of 'A Monthly Modeling (Potluck) Meal' that is in conjunction with communion. Potluck themes might include (but would not be limited to): Vegan, Vegetarian, Local, Low Budget, Traditional (in a meaningful sense to you and the Bower Hill Community), Something you've never eaten before, and Game/locally foraged food. We would bring recipe cards to share for the dishes we brought, which would ultimately be compiled in a church cookbook.*
- 7) *All will be invited to a "community cook-in" sometime around the first of the year. We will each bring certain ingredients, drink wine, laugh and play while we work, and go home with full hearts plus several night's meals.*
- 8) *We will personally be intentional about bringing less 'junk food' when hosting coffee hour and will challenge ourselves to bring more fruit, nuts, cheese and crackers, mini-quiches (those made without heavy cream), mini yogurt parfaits and whole grain baked goods.*
- 9) *We will explore the possibility of offering an immersion trip to Heifer International where you live, eat, and produce food as if you're in another country.*

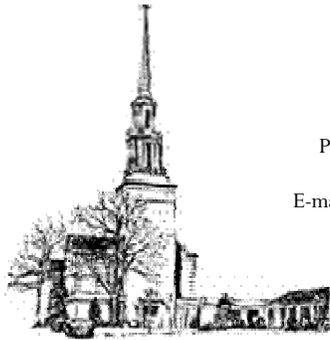
There will be much more coming in the near future, so stay posted.

Michelle Snyder, for the Food and Faith Class

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. Calvin C. Wilson
Rev. John Yohe

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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
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Emily Kerr, Office Administrator
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

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

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

Moody & Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

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

Pat Nuernberg, 619 Friendship Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

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