



~Embracing Your Inner Calvinist~

“Out of Zion,
the perfection of beauty,
God shines forth” ~Psalm 50:2

Dear Friends,

The fall season awakens My Inner Calvinist...and that's no small feat. Oh, he was an active fellow in his youth, self-assured and mildly haughty toward anyone who dared to disagree with him. But for the better part of the last decade, My Inner Calvinist has spent most days dozing in a sunny window seat, like an aging lapdog. He rouses himself when times are very good or unexpectedly bad. On dire occasions, My Inner Calvinist rises from his long nap to assure me that, whatever happens, it's all part of God's good plan. He whispers in my ear, “Whatever God ordains is right.” Sometimes I find his words reassuring, sometimes not. His worldview is orderly and symmetrical. His philosophy of life has a stately kind of beauty to it, like some majestic fugue by J.S. Bach.

My Inner Calvinist insists that everything in the world—and in our private lives—is God's doing. His God's splendor comes from absolute control over all living creatures. Tragedy and happiness alike come according to God's plan. But that's where My Inner Calvinist and I part ways. Issues of divine “power” and “control” are less important to me nowadays than divine “relationship,” and “kindness,” and “love.” That's to say, I still believe that God has a plan, and I still believe that God's plan is good. I'm just not certain that everything I see in this world is a part of that plan. And so, in recent times, My Inner Calvinist has contented himself to lie in a sunny window, nodding off, dreaming back over the Africa years. He's mostly dormant.

Still, when chilly autumn breezes rattle the rippled glass in the our old windowpanes, and when golden sunlight filters through russet-tinted leaves, and when the days grow shorter and shorter, My Inner Calvinist stretches, and yawns, and draws himself up to full height. It's at these times that he regains some of his former vigor, swaggering through my daily life again, like old times, telling me how all the living world is a demonstration of God's beauty, how in the end, what really matters is to “glorify God and enjoy God forever.”

There are really two things that send me scurrying back to My Inner Calvinist: beauty and transitions. Fall is a lovely season, and he's deeply moved by beauty. Fall is a transitional season, too, and (like many of our early belief systems) he always shows up for transitions. Transitions speak to our lack of power over the world. They speak of impermanence. In fact, I admit that I've occasionally been known to seek out the company of My Inner Calvinist whenever I find myself confronted with scary things like powerlessness and impermanence. But truly, isn't there a hint of impermanence at the heart of all beauty? Isn't the season all the lovelier because it is so brief? Think of the many things that are made all the more beautiful because they are short-lived: a child's infancy, a sunrise, a perfect dream. We can cling and try to hold them tight, but if we do, we're missing the point. Beauty is forever reincarnating. It fades here, only to reappear there.

My Outer Calvinist, Jonathan Edwards, believed that the first characteristic of God is beauty. God discloses Godself in beauty. To create beauty, to protect and preserve it, is to participate in the very life of God. Beautifying acts are holy because they make the reality of God more visible in the world. That's a pretty good philosophy...for a guy who's mostly only remembered for one bad sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” (Please don't let me be remembered for my worst sermon!) My Inner Calvinist wants a God of raw, ultimate control. But when he doesn't get that, he'll settle for a God who comes in beauty. And in the end, why would God need to control the world like a puppetmaster, if instead God suffuses the world with beauty, and meaning, and ever-renewing life? Happy All Saints Day. Happy Thanksgiving. Happy stewardship season. I hope that you'll find the presence of God in the beauty of these days.

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

THANKSGIVING PROGRESSIVE DINNER NOVEMBER 3



This event gives "meals on wheels" a whole new meaning. Back by popular demand, our 2nd annual progressive dinner will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, starting at 5:30 p.m. We will meet at the home of Bob & Joan Bridges. All you need to do is bring yourself and whatever you are drinking. We will divide up for the main course between several different houses and regroup at the home of Jim & Bev Burke for dessert. Contact the office for directions. Sign-ups are a must as our hosts need ample time to prepare. Also indicate whether or not you are able to help a host with food preparation. While we cannot provide child care for everyone, if child care is the reason you would be unable to come, please contact Michelle Snyder so arrangements can be made.



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Wednesdays, November 7, and December 5. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. The gatherings will continue to be on the first Wednesdays of the month through 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.

REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

A task force of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, The Ministry with Sexual Minorities, has asked Bower Hill Church to recommend a member to participate and attend its meetings. The task force meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Presbytery offices on the North Side at 7:00 p.m. The task force's mission, in part, is "to actively work for justice for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the church and the greater Pittsburgh community." If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dave Green at 412-531-2205 for more information.

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. The Book for November is: *Destiny of the Republic* by Candice Millard. Please note that Bookworms will meet the second Tuesday in November, the 13th, due to Thanksgiving.

FOOD DRIVE: EVERY SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH



Food Collection

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.

CPR CERTIFICATION

It's time to renew our CPR certification. The Worship and Music Committee intends to offer classes in CPR in early 2013. If you were certified the last time this class was offered, you will want to make sure to attend so your certification can be renewed. If you are certified, please sign the list on the big bulletin board so you can receive the details on this program. We need to identify people in the congregation who can be called upon in an emergency.

DECK THE HALLS

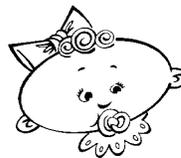


Deck the Halls

Deck the Halls is scheduled for Sunday, December 2, following the Worship Service. Many hands make light work. There will be no Adult Education or Open Spaces on that date so that everyone can help out. Dress is casual! Donna Williams is in charge of the event. Coffee hour will be held as usual.

DIAPER SHOWER

With the arrival of a new baby come piles of receiving blankets, onesies, and sleepers...often more than one little person can wear. But there are never enough DIAPERS. For that reason, the Bower Hill family will host a "diaper shower" for the following families:



November 25: The Philson Family

February 24: The Askins Family

A table will be set up during coffee hour where you can bring diapers, wipes and well wishes to these families.

Ushers & Greeters



Thanks to everyone who has participated in the new Ushers/Greeter program. It worked well in September. Remember to put your assignment on your calendar now even if you are not assigned until 2013. New members will be added to the list as vacancies come up. A reminder is sent to each greeter during the week prior to their assigned Sunday. In addition to greeting folks as they enter the church each Sunday, the greeters are called upon to hand out bulletins and help the regular ushers clean up after the service. The schedule for 2012-2013 is posted on the church website for easy retrieval if you need to check your assignment. Again, thanks to everyone from the Worship and Music Committee.

W e l c o m e

On October 4, the following new members became a part of our family of faith.

Please welcome them!

David and Juliet Cameron

James and Sarah Cannon

Margaret DeLair

Paul and Kristin Kantner

Robert and Kristen Mackey

Peter and Catherine Morgan



THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING

November 1 Kate Junker

November 3 Rev. Susan Nilsen
Bill Spangenberg
Josie Sheldon

November 4 Andy Hicks

November 6 Madelyn Salvante
Patrick Reisenger

November 10 Greta Snyder
David Harris

November 13 Ellie Rising
Jason May
Jim Corbett
Joann Vosburgh

November 14 Jim McAnulty, Jr.

November 18 Adam Kerner

November 21 Cassandra Gibbons
Al Eisenbeis, Jr.
Melanie May

November 24 Allison Lease

November 25 Lisa Shwallon
Michelle Snyder

November 27 Velma Noonan

November 28 Chuck Laufer

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.



LECTORS

- Nov. 4: Jason Rising
- Nov. 11: Nancy Salvante
- Nov. 18: Kirsten Bruder
- Nov. 25: Michelle Snyder

ACOLYTES

- Nov. 4: Ellie Rising, Anna Mezyk
- Nov. 11: Sage Williams, Leo Geis
- Nov. 18: Lydon Cameron, Julian Salvante
- Nov. 25: Anna Mezyk, Lindsay Bruder

GREETERS

- Nov. 4: George & Eleanora Freas, Nina Helbling
- Nov. 11: DJ & Sherri Geis, Julia Snead
- Nov. 18: Dave & Nancy Green, Cynthia Gissin
- Nov. 25: Dick & Carolyn Westerhoff, Doris Olinger

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS

- Nov. 4: The Bruder & Kerner Families
- Nov. 11: The Mezyk Family & Cynthia Gissin
- Nov. 18: The Hughes Family
- Nov. 25: The Philson Family



NOVEMBER ADULT EDUCATION

On Sunday, November 5, Jean Miewald will report on Heifer International, the organization that gives productive farm animals to needy people to give them an economic boost.

Sunday, November 11, will provide an update on recent events at Hekima Place by Pat Jacobs. Hekima Place, a home and school for orphaned girls in Kenya, has local origins and support.

The effect of the Affordable Health Care Act on the clients of the East Liberty Family Health Care Center will be discussed on **Sunday, November 18** by Stephen P. Paschall, attorney and emeritus director of the Center.

There will be no adult education sessions on Sunday, November 25, due to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend and Sunday, December 2, when the Deck the Halls event for Bower Hill Church is scheduled.

Adult discussion 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.

WORSHIP PLANS

Nov. 4: Communion, All Saints Sunday. John 11:32-44.

Nov. 11: Stewardship sermon. Mark 12:38-44.

Nov. 18: Thanksgiving (observed). Mark 13:1-8.

Nov. 25: Christ the King, Lilly Philson baptism.

COMMUNION SERVERS

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



Join Our Class!

**OPEN SPACES:
ADULT DISCUSSION**

Everyone is welcome to join Open Spaces which meets in the Friendship Room during the adult education hour—10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m. Each week we will have a focused discussion on a relevant faith topic. It's a great opportunity for questioning and spiritual growth in an open environment. Child care is provided.

ADVENT IN THE CHAPEL

Evening Advent events will take place in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. on the first three Thursdays in December: 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20. Our evening Advent series integrates worship and Bible study. Childcare will be provided. Please check your upcoming worship bulletins for details.



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for all of your help and hard work during Faith in Action (FIA). As a result, we were able to feed 45 men and women at Light of Life; repair, drywall and paint the Family Promise House in Crafton; make 32 blankets for Family Promise; clean the church doors, pews and stairwells and do some ground work; and provide produce to Miriam's House.

Although we had a few last minute glitches, FIA was an overwhelming success. Again, with God's help, a small group of people were able to undertake a significant amount of work.

Again, many, many thanks.

In Christ,

Keith Mason
Chair, Mission and Outreach Committee



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



Please note the date change of the Organ and Trumpet Concert! On Saturday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bower Hill Church Sanctuary, our Director of Music, Jessica Baier, will be joined by colleague Ryan Wolf, in a combined concert of organ and trumpet music. There will be a variety of genres played, 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.



Youth Director Chelsea Leitcher

Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 a.m.— Noon
Friday: 9:00 — Noon
ch@bhccml.com

The youth group at BHCC is beginning its fall activities. We went to Simmons farm to pick apples and pumpkins for a fun time of fellowship. We have begun a new program call "Second Sundays" where we go out for brunch and then a fun activity.

In November, the Youth will be selling Christmas Wreaths to support the Youth Mission trip. We will be looking for a male chaperon for the Youth Mission Trip this summer. If you are interested, please contact Chelsea at ch@bhccml.com or Mary Beth Waine and let us know what week of summer works best for you as we are currently picking a date and location. We are continually gratefully for the many blessings we have been given and wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving Season.



The Christmas Pageant will be held on December 23 during our 9:30 a.m. Worship service. It is called, "The Birds of Bethlehem," and tells the story, through music, about the birds who came to visit the baby Jesus before the shepherds and the wise men arrived. Each bird brings its own special gift to the baby. The birds are each represented by an adult solo, an instrumentalist, and of course, costumes that the children will be wearing.

On the specific Sundays listed below, the children will be practicing the music for the pageant, as part of the regular childcare given in the lounge during adult Sunday School. We will practice the music on November 11 and 18, and every Sunday in December from 10:45-11:15 a.m. There will be two Saturday rehearsals, on December 15 and 22, from 9-10:30 a.m. If you have any questions or require more information, please speak with Josie Sheldon or our Director of Music, Jessica Baier.

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 16th, sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

FLEA MARKET STAFF NEEDED**Sunday November 4th and Sunday November 11th: Final pricing days**

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

Wednesday November 14th 7:00 p.m.: Bringing Down the Boxes

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

Thursday November 15th 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 16th 9:00 a.m. -?

Typically we get most (if not all) of the unpacking done on Thursday, so Friday will probably be an early day.

Saturday November 17th 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.



Flea Market

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

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

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THERESA CHILD

412-429-9519

TREETOOWON@YAHOO.COM.

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

Memorial Gifts**Memorial Gifts**

The family of John Ramsey, who died in 2002, and his wife, Eleanor, who died in 2009, has requested that money given in their names be moved into the general fund to be used as needed.

Margie Sewall also offered the remaining money given in memory of her husband, Charles, to be used as needed.

Combining these three memorials enabled the church to repair the closers on the Narthex doors.

We remember the dedicated and faithful service of Charles, John and Eleanor to this church and are grateful that the main doors of the church are again open to members and visitors.



**DECEMBER 8TH:
SNYDER'S 3RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE**

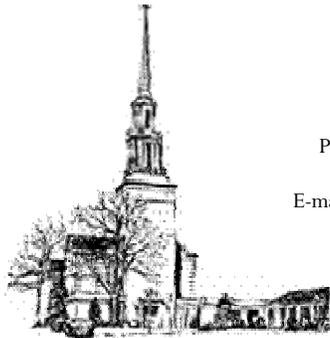
As last year, all are invited to
3524 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA
for drinks, appetizers and good conversation.

Come and go anytime between 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. to kick off the Christmas season together

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
www.bhccml.com



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RETURN SERVICE

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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

Chelsea Leitcher, Youth Director
ch@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

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