

~SEARCHING FOR MEANING~

*"At that time, Jesus declared... 'Come unto me,  
all ye who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest'."*

~Matthew 11:25-28

Dear Members and Friends,

An enormously successful capital campaign is still upon us, of course, but the most labor-intensive parts of the campaign are past. Lent is behind us. The triple-whammy of Holy Week is also past. A capital campaign brings its unexpected joys, as do Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Easter Sunday was a beautiful and very moving celebration amid the daffodils and the tulips—that most Presbyterian of flowers—with near record attendance (for the past decade, anyhow). All of these times were meaningful and joyful. But still, a part of me rejoices in the lazy expectation of slipping back into the quiet rhythm of church-life-as-usual. No big holidays. No big campaigns. I know, I know, I'd get in trouble if some folks heard me say that. Church life isn't meant to be "usual." It's meant to be a rewarding struggle, a challenge to the *status quo* of the world, perhaps even a thrill from time to time. (Besides, if you want to get technical, the Easter Season is meant to be a fifty-day "sustained high" that reaches its jubilant crescendo in June, at Pentecost.) And yet, in all reality, things get quieter in most churches from May through August. And we need these less-celebrated times, too, to be reminded of God's living presence in all the ordinariness of life.

Whether it's Christmas, or Easter, or the many in-between days, we still bring our ongoing search for meaning and purpose inside the walls of the church, and here our quest is rewarded. In Frederick Buechner's book, *The Longing for Home: Recollections and Reflections*, the author describes his grandparents' palatial house in the Shadyside neighborhood of Pittsburgh; it's the only place where he ever really felt "at home" as a child. Now, as an old man, he has this to say:

*Even if my grandfathers had been less shadowy and I had been less timid, I wonder if I would ever have been able to learn from them what I would give so much to know now about who they were, both for its own sake and also for the sake of learning something more about who I am myself... I suspect that our stories in their fullness will always be hidden from each other and that all those whiskered old men and bonneted old women looking out at us from their photographs in the family album will always remain mysteries to us even if, like me, they happen to have written their memoirs. And yet I believe that all is not lost. Maybe we can never know each other's stories in their fullness, but I believe we can know them in their depth, for...in their depth we all have the same story.*

*Whether we're rich or poor, male or female, a nineteenth-century Swiss jeweler or a twentieth-century American clergyman like me with a penchant for writing books, or a young squirt celebrating his twenty-first birthday in the twenty-first century, our stories are all stories of searching. We search for a good self to be and for good work to do. We search to become human in a world that tempts us always to be less than human or looks to us to be more. We search to love and to be loved. And in a world where it is often hard to believe in much of anything, we search to believe in something holy and beautiful and life-transcending that will give meaning and purpose to the lives we live.*

Thank you for all that you do to make Bower Hill Church the active, growing, and exciting congregation that it is today. In return for all your labor and love, I trust that in this place you find "something holy, and beautiful, and life-transcending" in return. (Yes, I took the liberty of adding the "Oxford Comma" to Buechner's phrase, just because I believe it gives the sentence more meaning...)

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

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOTICE

The July and August newsletters will, again this year, be combined into a joint issue. The following deadlines and meeting dates apply:

- The deadline for submissions to the combined July/August newsletter is June 15.
- The deadline for the September Kick-Off edition of the newsletter is August 15th.
- Newsletter Volunteers will meet June 26 and August 28. There will be no mailing to fold in July.

Please call the office with any questions or concerns.

## FLEA MARKET RESULTS

Despite the tables not being as full as usual, the Spring 2014 Flea Market made \$3500 (which is the most money we've made from a spring flea market so far). This is because, even though we had less "stuff" than usual, what we did have was quality. In fact, the boutique actually had more items than usual (and made just above \$650). The flea market committee is always amazed by how we offer so many items for \$1 or less, but always manage to "nickel and dime" it to several thousand dollars for each flea market.

We thought it would be interesting to see how much money has been raised by the flea market over the past 10 years (10 Fall and 4 Spring) and the grand total is \$40,333! Over the years the funds have been used for Building and Grounds, the Youth Group, Communication (BHCC ads in Mount Lebanon Magazine and the Almanac), and, of course, Mission. Thank you to everybody who has worked so hard and donated so many items to make all our flea markets (past, present and future) huge successes!

## THE TENT EVENT

Men and children, pack up your gear! Friday, May 16 - Saturday, May 17, Parish Life will host a camping trip for you on the church's front lawn. Don't have camping equipment? That's okay. We'll find you some. What if it rains? We'll change the name to lock-in and sleep in the church. There's no excuse to miss this time of fellowship together. (And hey, women, don't tell anyone, but we're going to take this opportunity to go out for dinner to celebrate all the mothers in our lives while the men and children are otherwise occupied.)

## HIGHMARK WALK FOR HEALTH

The 2014 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Pittsburgh will take place Saturday, May 17, at Stage AE on the North Shore. This year's Walk benefits 71 health and human service organizations. Family Promise of Southwestern Pennsylvania,

one of our main mission partners, is one of the organizations that will benefit. All monies raised through the walk on behalf of Family Promise will go to support their ministry. Registration is now open online at this link:

[www.walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://www.walkforahealthycommunity.org)

Our team is the Bower Hill Bulldogs!  
Contact Keith Mason with questions.

## SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST: FIRST TUESDAY

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Tuesday, May 6. The group will meet on *first Tuesdays* through October. The group convenes at 8:00 a.m. at Kings Restaurant on Rte. 50, Washington Pike, near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. 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. Typically six to 10 men attend.

## FOOD DRIVE: EVERY SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH

Wallace Food Pantry collects food items that they will need to provide supplies to all their client families. The primary need is for dry cereal. Hearty soups and stews, peanut butter and baby foods are also always welcome.

## BOOKWORMS

Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 at BHCC, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

Tuesday, May 20  
*The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*  
by Rachel Joyce



**Save the date  
and join us  
for these special events!**

**Friday, May 16 - Saturday, May 17**  
The Tent Event (see page 2)

**May 25-June 1**  
Family Promise at Bower Hill

**Saturday, June 7**  
Moraine Day  
Moraine State Park

**June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
VBS: Scavenger Hunt (see page 5)  
Preschool — Grade 2

**Saturday, July 12**  
Washington Wildthings Game

**Sunday, July 20**  
Askins Family Diaper Shower

**August 4-8**  
VBS: Mission Week (see page 5)  
3rd—6th grade

**Saturday, August 23**  
All-Church Picnic

**Sunday, September 7**  
Kick-Off Sunday

**THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING**



May 01 Wendy Post  
May 02 Barbara Oram  
May 04 Beth Robosky  
May 06 Barbara Prunchak  
Alex Junker  
May 07 Dave Green  
May 08 Betty Ewing  
May 09 Alana Gissin  
Daniel Gissin  
Evelyn Reece  
Avery Saba  
May 10 Lynn Foltz

Ben Hohlfelder  
May 13 Connie May  
May 14 Jean Grabow  
May 16 J. Graham Knox, Sr.  
May 17 Robert Olinger  
Rick Baumhammers  
Emily Delestienne Hoffman  
May 18 Lindsay Cole  
May 19 Henry DeVandry  
Abbey Marcovsky  
Ethan Ridgeway  
May 20 Abby Waine  
May 21 Joan Zakor  
May 22 Alice Pasquarelli  
Nancy Andrews  
May 23 Allison Bruder  
May 25 Nicholas Cole  
May 26 Dick Westerhoff

May 29 Jacob Geis

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 and speak with the secretary in order to update the office!

**ADULT EDUCATION**

**Sunday May 4:** Elder Bill Cadwell, our Clerk of Session, will present a discussion of the topic “Rabbi, When Will the Messiah Come?”

**Sundays May 11 and 18:** The Rev. Janet Edwards will discuss marriage requirements in the Presbyterian Church, USA. Janet will be a commissioner to the General Assembly in Detroit this summer and has been an advocate for eliminating “between a man and a woman” in the church’s definition of marriage. On May 11 she will review the church’s essentials for marriage from materials provided by the General Assembly (GA). On May 18 she will discuss same-sex marriage in light of the GA essentials with materials from More Light Presbyterians, who favor same sex marriage.

**May 25: No adult education due to Memorial Day weekend. No adult education programs during June, July and August. Programs resume in September.**

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](mailto:davegreenpgh@aol.com).

**NEW PROCESSIONAL CROSSES**

For centuries, “processional crosses” have been used in worship to signify Christ’s presence in the gathered community of faith. We are grateful to Glenn Williams who, at the pastor’s request, designed and created two new processional crosses to be used in worship at Bower Hill Church. One of these will appear on communion Sundays and also on special “holy days” like Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas. The child who carries the cross into the sanctuary at the beginning of the worship service is technically called a “crucifer,” but we’ll probably use the friendlier term “acolyte.”

**WORSHIP PLANS**

May 4: Third Sunday of Easter  
Communion.  
Luke 24:13-35; Acts 2:14a, 36-41

May 11: Fourth Sunday of Easter  
“Shepherd Sunday,” Mothers’ Day  
Baptism of Ellena & Elise Gibbs  
Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10.

May 18: Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Confirmation Sunday  
John 14:1-14 & 1 Peter 2:2-10.

May 25: Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Memorial Day weekend  
John 14:15-21 & Acts 17:22-31

**SECOND CONGREGATION MEETING**

By official call of the Session, the second 2014 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), will be held on May 11 in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate of nominees for the offices of Session, Deacon and Nominating Committee members to be elected by the congregation. Persons may also be nominated from the floor. Such nominations must have the consent of the persons being nominated prior to the meeting.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

DATE	GREETERS	ACOLYTES	COFFEE HOUR	LECTOR
5/4/2014	Curt & Cathy Philson, Cynthia Gissin	Ellie and Nate Rising	The Baileys	Keith Mason
5/4/2014	Communion Servers: Bill & Nancy Andrews, Josie Sheldon, Dick Westerhoff			
5/11/2014	Adam & Missy Kerner, Josie Sheldon	Anna Mezyk and Sage Williams	Donna Williams	Cynthia Gissin
5/18/2014	Darenda & Tim Lease, Bill Cadwell	Graceann Foster and Chloe Snyder		Mike Riemer
5/25/2014	Jason & Beth Robosky, Dave Stewart		The Camerons	Sydney Saba

**VBS WILL LOOK  
DIFFERENT THIS YEAR AT BOWER HILL!**

There will be two weeks offered:

**SCAVENGER HUNT:  
FINDING MY PLACE IN GOD'S STORY"  
June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>  
9:30 a.m. -Noon.  
Cost \$5 per child or \$10 per family**

This program will be for kids Preschool-aged through those children completing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The week will be filled with games, crafts, snacks, and fellowship. Kids that have completed 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be encouraged to serve as helpers.

Sign-up sheets to help volunteer with this week are posted near the nursery.

**MISSION WEEK  
August 4-8  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

During this week kids who have completed 3<sup>rd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate. Kids will learn about a local place where they can make a difference. Participants will volunteer at local area sites during the morning hours, then return to the church to share lunch and fellowship together. On the last day of Mission Week, the participants will enjoy a fun day.

Space will be limited to 20 kids.

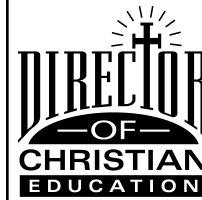
**PLEASE SUPPORT ME: RUNNING FOR HEKIMA PLACE**

I've spent the winter preparing to run my first ever half-marathon in Pittsburgh on May 4 and I would appreciate your support. I'm running for the Hekima Place girls, especially for Maggi, orphaned by AIDS, who just graduated high school and wants to continue her education to become a commercial pilot.

Hekima Place is not big enough to be one of the registered charities listed with the marathon, but Hekima Place has its own website. If you'd like to make a donation to support my run for the girls of Hekima Place, please go to [www.hekimaplace.org](http://www.hekimaplace.org). Click on the "Events" button and select "Pittsburgh Marathon Donations". Then select Pat Jacobs/Maggi W from the "runner-sponsored girl" drop-down menu.

Or send a donation to: Hekima Place, care of Kathy English, 407 Morrison Dr., Pgh 15216. Put Pgh Marathon and my name in the memo line. If you can't make a donation, I'd appreciate your prayers for the girls of Hekima Place - and that I don't kill myself trying to finish! Thanks!

Pat Jacobs



Marla Kemmler  
ma@bhccml.com

Sunday  
9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Monday  
9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

It is hard to believe the 2013-2014 school year is almost over. May 25 will be our last regular Sunday School class for the 2013-2014 school year. All the classes will gather in the lounge for an end-of-the-year celebration. This will be a fun time for our kids to fellowship together before scattering for summer. Summer Sunday School will start June 1.

This summer we will be getting down and dirty in Sandi's Garden! A few weeks ago during the second hour, the kids and Steve Boisvert planted peppers seeds and chard seeds for the garden. The seeds have been quietly growing in the indoor green house (donated by Dave Hicks) in the music room. When Mr. B. says it is time, we will transplant our young plants into the garden. Then once a month we will tend to our very own area in the garden! BUT that is not all we have planned for Summer Sunday school. We will be learning about mission sites around the United States and the world. Ghana, Peru, Guatemala, Miami (Florida), Tucson (Arizona) are just a few of the place we will learn about. Each lesson includes stories from children of PC(USA) mission personnel or PC (USA) mission personnel who work with children.

Of course, we will need adult volunteers to help this summer. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the nursery with dates and what mission site we will be learning about that week. If you are busy during the fall/winter months with an adult activity that does not meet in the summer, **PLEASE** consider signing up for one summer Sunday.

**VOLUNTEERS DO NOT  
NEED TO PLAN ANYTHING!**

All that is required is a heart for kids. Marla will teach and plan lessons for the summer.

~

Please see the article to the left for information about BHCC 2014 Vacation Bible School.



## BHCC FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS REFLECT

**Bower Hill has hosted homeless families in the Family Promise program three times, for a week at a time. Our next hosting week begins on May 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have not indicated that you would like to be part of the pool of volunteers who host our families, please talk to Jean Miewald at 412-221-2114 and she will add you to the list. We need van drivers, dinner hosts, overnight hosts and folks who would like to come spend some time with our guests. Below are some comments from folks who have volunteered during these weeks.**

### **BETSY HOHLFELDER**

Highlights of my Overnight Host evening this time included playing Monopoly with two brothers, ages 8 and 4. I was amazed that a 4-year-old would sit and play this game for 90 minutes and enjoy it like he did! Earlier in the evening one of the guests movingly shared her story with Alan and me and called us (and the other Bower Hill volunteers) her "angels" for helping her. She was so very appreciative!

### **RICK AND PAT JACOBS**

Don't get to see your grandkids enough? Family Promise offers a golden opportunity to spend some quality time with children and their parent(s) who are temporarily homeless. Sometimes the parent(s) talk about their situation and dreams and sometimes they just enjoy having some quiet time to themselves in a setting that is safe and stable. But the children always enjoy playing games, coloring or reading books, and they really appreciate adult attention. So consider getting your "grandparent fix" at Family Promise. You can cook and share a meal, spend the evening and overnight with the families (our favorite), or drive the van. If you love children, you'll be glad you supported Family Promise.

### **REV. BRIAN AND MICHELLE SNYDER**

"Everyone here is so nice," a single mother said to us. "I thought people would act scared of us because we're homeless, but you've all been so great." Another said, "I never thought we'd end up on the street, and I definitely never thought anyone would help us if we did." Yet another said, "You made this pie from a real pumpkin? Like a jack-o-lantern? You're joking, right?" Whether it's feeding people, playing with kids, or simply offering the gifts of friendship and acceptance, we found that it's always a joy to host Family Promise, and nearly everyone who passes through our doors is so grateful for our help.

### **KIRI RISING**

We have served Family Promise meals, both at St. Johns and now at BHCC. My children love it and look forward to seeing who the newcomers may be. Ellie in particular looks forward to serving and looking after the younger children. She always is curious about their stories and often will follow up with questions about whether or not they found homes. I am so proud that our church family has chosen to participate in this program. Ellie has shared her experience with her school friends and some have asked if they can come, too! Branching out...

### **MARY GOOD**

I have only been on the dinner end of things the three times and I've always been glad - even blessed - to be involved. There always seems to be one in the group who wants to share her story — some heart-breaking, some just strange. Even though we've been warned not to expect thanks, there's always one who is deeply appreciative of the care/help. I come away grateful that BHCC helps bridge this transition time in their lives. And it reminds me of my own blessings — especially my supportive extended family, which our Family Promise guests don't seem to have.

### **RICH SALVANTE**

Family Promise has been an enlightening and beneficial activity for our family. Perhaps the largest impact has been in getting over the fear of engaging those who seem very different from us but who share the same basic needs. I think the long-term impact on our children will be very positive as they get older and make choices about how to treat others. In a nutshell, developing empathy for others is a positive force.



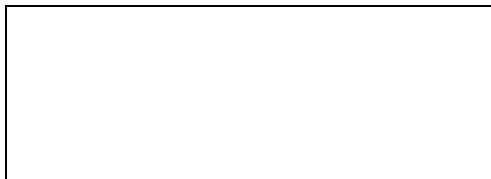
# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

70 Moffett Street  
Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor  
[br@bhccml.com](mailto:br@bhccml.com)

Company of Pastors  
Rev. Grafton Eliason  
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes  
Rev. Calvin C. Wilson  
Rev. John Yohe

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

Marla Kemmler, Director of Christian Education  
and Youth Programs  
[ma@bhccml.com](mailto:ma@bhccml.com)

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary  
[di@bhccml.com](mailto:di@bhccml.com)

Emily Kerr, Secretary  
[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

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

**Al & Betty Eisenbeis**, 730 Bower Hill Road, Apt. 219, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

**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**, 3800 Oak Leaf Rd., Room 40-M, Pittsburgh, PA 15227

**John Theilacker**, 101 Manorview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220

## SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION



Need a ride to worship? The deacons would like to provide a ride to worship for members who need one. If you find yourself in need of a ride, you may call your parish deacon prior to Sunday to arrange a ride. Not sure who to call? Contact the church office for assistance.