

## “I Have Been Led”

And the Spirit...drove [Jesus] out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe the good news.’  
~Mark 1:12-15

Dear Members and Friends,

For years, now, I've puzzled over those words, “The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness,” where he spent forty days in solitude and prayer, finding the courage to become the person he was called to be. What does it look like when the Spirit “drives” a person? With the Season of Lent dawning upon us, we too have an opportunity to spend forty days finding the strength to become the individuals—and the church—that we are called to be. I daresay the Spirit will even drive us. Consider this insight from our old friend, Wendell Berry:

*If you could do it, I suppose, it would be a good idea to live your life in a straight line—starting, say, in the Dark Wood of Error, and proceeding by logical steps through Hell and Purgatory and into Heaven. Or you could take the King’s Highway past appropriately named dangers, toils, and snares, and finally cross the River of Death and enter the Celestial City. But that is not the way I have done it, so far. I am a pilgrim, but my pilgrimage has been wandering and unmarked. Often what has looked like a straight line to me has been a circle or a doubling back. I have been in the Dark Wood of Error any number of times. I have known something of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, but not always in that order. The names of many snares and dangers have been made known to me, but I have seen them only in looking back. Often I have not known where I was going until I was already there. I have had my share of desires and goals, but my life has come to me or I have gone to it mainly by way of mistakes and surprises. Often I have received better than I have deserved. Often my fairest hopes have rested on bad mistakes. I am an ignorant pilgrim, crossing a dark valley. And yet for a long time, looking back, I have been unable to shake off the feeling that I have been led—make of that what you will.*

Berry borrows imagery from that old Puritan classic novel, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, which is an allegory for the life of faith. But his conclusion is one that many of us end up saying when we cast a backward glance over our years: “I have been led.” I wonder if Jesus might not have said the same thing after his forty strange days in the wilderness? Did he say it on the dark night of his arrest, praying in the garden, led away in shackles? I wonder if he had the clarity to say it from his prison cell, awaiting trial? Did he say it again from the cross? “I have been led.” We don't always know when the Spirit is driving us, leading us. We see it best in retrospect. But I am quite certain that we, all of us, will be led—driven by the Spirit—through these forty days and beyond. God give us eyes to see it!

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

### DISTRIBUTION OF DIRECTORY AND ANNUAL REPORTS

The office has sent an electronic copy of the 2013 Annual Report and the 2014 Spring Member Directory to all members with an email on file in the church office. Printed copies will be made available to members during office hours. If you are unable to pick up a copy of either document, call 412-561-4114 to request that they be mailed.

### 3RD ANNUAL HAITI LUNCH AND FASHION SHOW

Mark your calendar and make your plans to attend this year's Haiti fashion show / lunch fundraiser. The details: Saturday, March 29th, at noon in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$25. Reserved seating for tables of 8. Fashions from Ann Taylor, Cache and Ona Boutique. Invite your friends for a deliciously fun event. There will be gift baskets for raffle and Chinese Auction. (If you are willing to supply one, please contact very grateful Mary Good or Kathy Philson.)

### 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 WEDNESDAYS

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Wednesday, March 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. 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.

### 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.

March : *Looking for Me* by Beth Hoffman

April: *The 100-year-old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson

### BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

#### Steeple Renovations

Once again, the report is that the contractor is nearing completion of the job. Several small tasks remain that require a scaffold free of snow and ice. The weather next week will hopefully be warm enough to complete those tasks, the scaffold will then be removed, and the contractor will finish several small items that require the scaffold not be in place. Continued patience is requested from all, we're getting toward the end and spring is just around the corner.

#### Snow / Ice Removal

Obviously the weather has been less than ideal. The cost of rock salt has increased from \$65/ton to \$140/ton, and it is in short supply. We are working with the contractor to maximize their effectiveness on our behalf. We are also attempting to put together a list of local teenagers who would be willing to shovel at times when the custodian is not at the church. We will pay them \$10/hr. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them call Dave Hicks at 412-833-7753. For now, hope for warm weather.



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

**Sunday, March 2**  
Soup at SHIM Center (see page 5)

**March 9-16**  
Family Promise at BHCC

**Saturday, March 29**  
Haiti Lunch and Fashion Show (see page 2)

**Saturday, April 5**  
BHCC Flea Market (see page 6)

**Sunday, April 20**  
Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt

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

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



**JESSICA BAIER**

**Sunday:** 7:00 a.m.— 11:00 p.m.  
**Monday:** 1:30 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** 12:00 a.m.— 9:00 p.m.  
**Friday:** 8:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

As you may know, I have returned to Duquesne University to finish my bachelor's degree in Sacred Music. I am a junior, and as a junior in the Sacred Music department, I am required to perform a degree recital. I am pleased to announce that it will be held in the sanctuary at Bower Hill on Sunday, April 6, at 3:00 p.m. I will be joined by BHCC member Amanda Vosburgh and we will perform two pieces with cello and organ. I hope that you will add this event to your calendar. I have worked for eight years to return to school, and this return has brought many blessings and challenges. This recital will be a wonderful event and I hope to see you there!

A new handbell/handchime group has started, but it is not too late to join! We have been having a lot of fun on Friday mornings at 9:15 a.m. -10:15 a.m., learning how to ring the chimes and learning the basics of reading the notes. Even if you do not know the first thing about music, you can still ring! Please contact Jessica if you have any interest in joining us!

**THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING**



**March 01** Phil Johnson  
Jay Reisinger

**March 02** Dan Zabo

**March 05** Anna Mezyk

**March 06** Betty Jonosy

**March 09** Chuck Blumenschein  
Kevin Kelly

**March 11** Betty Mancini

**March 12** Megan Henney

**March 13** Ronald Linaburg

**March 14** Florence Spangenberg

Beth Ruh

**March 15** Patti Hansen

**March 16** Lynne Wohleber

**March 18** Jeanne Olsen  
Cindy Waller  
Megan Gardner  
Christopher Bruder

**March 19** Everett Good

**March 20** Beth Chester

**March 21** Lucille Heckman

**March 22** Moody Johnson  
Kristin Kantner

**March 23** Alice Cantalupo

**March 25** Bill Ewing  
Gavin Salvante

**March 26** Cynthia Gissin

**March 27** Bob Winnett  
Darenda Lease  
Mike Riemer

**March 28** Peter Morgan  
Gabriel Mezyk

**March 29** Donna Williams

**March 31** Judy Delestienne

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.

**ADULT EDUCATION**



**March 2 and 9:** The struggling nation of Haiti, site of our solar water mission project, is the subject of a two-part presentation by our Elder Steve Boisvert. On March 2 the subject is "Haiti: the Caribe to the Quake," a look at the history of Haiti pre-quake as a means of understanding the people and culture of Haiti. For March 9, Steve will discuss "Haiti After the Quake: Trying to Build Back

Better": How have Haitians, with the assistance/partnership of countries, organizations, and individuals fared in their efforts to build a better Haiti after the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010?

**March 16:** Corporal James Hughes of the Mt. Lebanon police crime prevention unit will speak to us about his work with youth in the community and some of the challenges they face.

**March 23:** *The Zealot*, a book by Reza Aslan, internationally acclaimed writer and scholar of religions, was at the top of the New York Times best-seller list in 2013. It is a thoroughly researched story that sheds new light on the life and times of Jesus. Elder Dave Green will review the book.

**March 30:** Our Elder Michelle Snyder was recently promoted to executive director of the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute. She will tell us about the organization that has been serving southwestern Pennsylvania since 1964., The Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) is the area's oldest and largest interfaith counseling and psychotherapy center that integrates behavioral science and the resources of a client's particular religious faith.

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).

**LENTEN LUNCHEON**

*March 9 is the first Sunday in Lent! Our Lenten series this year is a study of the Passion narratives in the Gospels of Mark and John, led by Pastor Snyder. This is a "brown-bag lunch" in the ground floor lounge (opposite the choir room) from 11:30 a.m. until about 12:15 p.m. This group will meet most Thursdays in the Lenten Season: March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10. Pack your lunch and join us.*

**WORSHIP PLANS**

**March 2: Transfiguration, Communion**  
Exodus 24:12-18; Matthew 17:1-9,  
Rev. Dr. Grafton Eliason is preaching

**March 9: Lent 1A**  
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11.  
"Fig Leaves."

**March 16: Lent 2A**  
Genesis 12:1-4a; John 3:1-17.  
"The Land that I Will Show You."

**March 23: Lent 3A**  
John 4:5-15, 16-29.  
"The Water I Will Give."

**March 30: Lent 4A, Commitment Sunday**  
John 9:1-23; John 9:24-38.  
"An Astonishing Thing"

**MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

DATE	GREETER	ACOLYTER	COFFEE HOUR	LECTOR
3/2/2014	Juliet & David Cameron, Phyllis Madden	Lindsay and Allie Bruder	Mezyk	Jason Robosky
3/2/2014	Communion Servers: Barb & Woody Hughes, Bev & Jim Burke			
3/9/2014	Jim DeLong, Keith Mason, Tricia Eliason	Ellie and Nate Rising	Hohlfelder	Kristin Kantner
3/16/2014	Jim & Joan McAnulty, Betty Ewing	Sage Williams and Chloe Snyder	Westerhoff	Alan Hohlfelder
3/23/2014	Mary Beth Waine, Abby Waine	Anna Mezyk and Greta Snyder	Burke	Chris Robbins
3/30/2014	Mark & Lynn Mezyk, Cindy Waller	Sydney and Avery Saba	Capital Campaign	Sarah Cannon



Marla Kemmler  
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

What an exciting time here at Bower Hill!

The whole congregation is branching out into so many new things it hard to keep up with it all. Christian Education is also branching out into many new directions. "A Vision Team" has been formed consisting of Marla Kemmler, Rich Salvante, Amy Grella and Betsy Hohlfelder. The team will address the new challenges we face in programming for the young people of the church. The first meeting for the team will be April 6. Please keep an eye out for regular updates from the team.

Children's Choir will sing March 23. There will be practice during the second hour March 9 and 16 in the sanctuary. The children will sing "Big House" and the song can be found on the VBS music CD from 2013. If you do not have a copy of the CD please see Marla.

The children will take part in a poster campaign during Sunday School on March 16. The theme will be "I love my church because....." The posters will be on display in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall March 23 and 30. Our goal is to have every child create a poster. If you know your family will not be attending church March 16, please contact Dawn Kane for poster supplies at jkanek@verizon. You may turn in the poster the following week.

The VBS 2014 theme is "Scavenger Hunt: Finding My Place in God's Story." We have tentatively scheduled it to take place the week of August 4-8. We have moved VBS from our typical early summer timeframe to avoid conflicts with other area church VBS offerings and the fourth of July holiday, and to give our kids something to look forward to later in the summer as they begin to get bored.

### HELP SHIM "SACK HUNGER"

SHIM is starting a new campaign from February 2<sup>nd</sup>-March 17<sup>th</sup> to tackle hunger in the South Hills...and you can be a part of it! Did you know that SHIM food pantries serve more than 500 families each year? That 43% of people who receive food from the SHIM pantries are children? That 41% of those using the food pantry in Bethel Park are employed, but need help making ends meet? These are our neighbors and we are called to help.

### Here are ways you can participate:

**Eat Soup:** Stop by SHIM Center in Bethel Park on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for a hot bowl of soup. In addition to raising funds for SHIM, you can enjoy casual fellowship and learn more about SHIM's food pantries. Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased online at [shim-center.org/souper-supper](http://shim-center.org/souper-supper). Let's have a nice turnout from Bower Hill! Please see Betsy Hohlfelder if you have questions.

**Participate in SHIM's Virtual Food Drive:** Do you know that SHIM is able to leverage your gifts through the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank to buy more food than you could buy for the same money at the supermarket? For example, \$20 at the grocery store gets you 15-30 cans of soup...but with the same \$20, SHIM can buy 80 cans of soup through the Food Bank. Check out [shim-center.org/virtual-food-drive](http://shim-center.org/virtual-food-drive).

**Thanks to a grant from BNY Mellon, all financial donations to the Sack Hunger campaign will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. Your gifts will go twice as far.**

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### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: MISSION ALLOCATION NOTICE

**At its February meeting,  
Session unanimously approved allocating  
10% of all receipts received under  
the Capital Campaign to Mission,  
regardless of the outcome of the campaign.**

**That is, 10% of total receipts  
will be allocated to Mission if the campaign  
fails to meet its \$600,000 goal,  
and 10% will be allocated to Mission if the  
campaign exceeds that goal.**

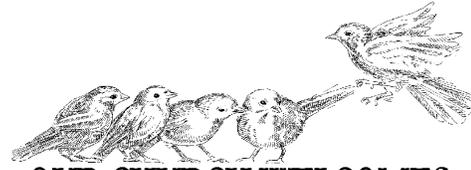
**FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER TEAM**

Gearing up for a capital campaign should be an exciting time for any congregation, and we are no exception. One thing that makes our campaign stand out is its emphasis on prayer and spiritual renewal. A prayer team, co-chaired by Kathy Philson and Debbie Boisvert, will be praying throughout the coming weeks, and we are also asking for prayers from all of you! You received a 20-day devotional guide in your Capital Campaign information packet that can be used as part of your prayer life. And please remember the daily prayer we ask everyone to repeat:

"Lord, what would you do through me to accomplish your vision for Bower Hill Church? Help me to discern a sacrifice for our capital campaign that is meaningful and joyful."

Something new for Bower Hill will be a nightly prayer vigil, held in the chapel from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., Monday, March 17 through Thursday, March 20. We will ask you, as individuals, couples, families or friends, to spend half an hour in the chapel praying for the Capital Campaign, as well as our church and everyone in it. There will be a sign-up sheet to choose your time, and we will provide cards with some suggestions, should you need them. You'll know who will follow you, and you'll leave as they come in. If you have never participated in a prayer vigil, you will find it a lovely, calm, and meaningful respite.

We look forward to praying with you.  
Kathy Philson and Debbie Boisvert

**OUR CHURCH WELCOMES**

*Welcome to our new members!*

Andy Druckenbrod and Allison Schlesinger,  
children Henry and Clara

Nick and Bethany Gibbs, children Elena and Elise

Brad and Amanda Gray,  
children Nathan, Davis, Wyatt,  
Adaline, and Emmalyn

Dick Headley

Mike Riemer

Alfie and Val Watterson, children Bea and Gus

**Flea Market**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH**  
**FROM 8:30 A.M.—3:00**  
**P.M.**

**QUESTIONS?**

**CONTACT THERESA CHILD**

**SPRING FLEA MARKET: DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS!**

Start your Spring Cleaning early and bring in your donations for the Spring Flea Market. The date for the Spring Flea Market is April 5th and collection 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.

In case you missed the results of the fall flea market, here's the happy news! We were able to raise close to \$4300. Combined with the \$2500 we made in the spring, that's about \$6800 in 2013!

We also made extra money for the Haiti project by selling some of the handmade items brought by Frantzou from Haiti. Most of the items were metal crosses or words such as Welcome, Peace, or Joy.

After the flea market a representative from Family Promise came and "shopped" for the families they serve. She took items such as glasses, dishes, blankets and small appliances. She was quite pleased to find an abundance of George Foreman grills and lamps. All in all she filled an SUV and even had to tie a few items to the roof!

Thank you again to everyone who helped make the Fall Flea Market a success!



# BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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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)

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

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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