



Bower Hill News

February 2016

~ These Forty Days of Lent ~

“The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to him.”

~Mark 1:12-13

Dear Members and Friends,

On that old TV show, *MASH*, Father Mulcahy says to Klinger, “I thought you were an atheist.” And Klinger replies, “I gave it up for Lent.” That was the first time I ever heard of Lent! When I was a kid, we didn’t observe Ash Wednesday or have special church programs during the forty-day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter. There was no fasting or “giving anything up” either. Of Lent’s forty days, I knew only three: Palm Sunday (which all children loved because it meant waving exotic tropical leaves in church), Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Unlike my Catholic schoolmates and step-cousins, in later years, I was never called upon to give up Bazooka bubblegum or candy cigarettes during Lent. (Though in retrospect, I can’t believe candy cigarettes were permitted at any time of year.) And yet, our permissive Lenten neglect was more than made up for on Maundy Thursday, the most horrifying day of the year. If Lent was meant to be a season of suffering for one’s sins, then Maundy Thursday squeezed forty days of wretchedness into one. I hated Maundy Thursday worse than the first day of school. I hated Maundy Thursday worse than the day of the annual flu shot. I even hated it worse than that one day each year when the school nurse would line everyone up and check our heads for lice. Maundy Thursday meant going to “night church” for an awkward service of foot-washing. My brothers and I were the only kids who were forced to go, too! My sister—and all other children—found ways to escape the annual indignities of Maundy Thursday.

On that most disgraceful day, we would gather in a circle with a dozen or so older gentlemen, and at the appointed time, everyone took off his shoes and socks, and those old fellows set about the business of washing our feet. There was real soap, a basin of warm water, and towels. It was awful. And then, after our feet had been handled by a near-stranger, we would have to wrap a towel around our waists, kneel in front of our elders and wash their feet. (I don’t know which was more horrifying for a nine-year-old boy: being washed or doing the washing.) I still recall my first Maundy Thursday at college when I realized with deep relief that I was a thousand miles from home, and all feet would remain the sole domain of those who walked on them. But now, as a Presbyterian, I see the beauty of Lent.

Why is Lent cast as such a gloomy time? An old Dutch saying goes, “He’s as welcome here as the first day of Lent.” And yet, it’s a time of year when the days are growing longer, when light is increasing and reaching into corners long dark. It’s a time of year when flower bulbs beneath the frozen earth are stirring themselves to new growth, new life. Surely our dour notions of Lent come from the idea that God is only made happy by our sufferings. Western Christianity still holds a very old superstition that drawing closer to God requires deprivation, hair-shirts, and self-flagellation. Why else would you give up chocolate for forty days, only to take it up again on Easter morning?

Instead of depriving yourself of something for Lent, why not enrich yourself? Do you think you could say the Prayer of St. Patrick each morning for forty days? (Google it.) You might try reading the daily lectionary for forty days: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/devotions/. How about giving yourself twenty whole minutes of uninterrupted silence at the beginning or the close of each day for forty days? (Okay, then make it fifteen. Ten? Okay, ten. But that’s as low as I’ll go!) If you must give something up, how about blame, or gossip, or any technology that makes you less present to those who love you? How about giving up the price of a cup of coffee each day and sending it to SHIM?

Lent begins this year on February 10 with a service of ashes in the sanctuary. Each Wednesday in Lent, we will hold traditional services of compline (see the announcement) at which someone you may have known for years will share the story of his or her faith journey. I hope you’ll take up some joyful practice in this Lenten season. And make your journey toward Easter with us.

In Christ’s peace,

Brian

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

EAT AND MEET NEWS

On **December 13, 2015**, the Eat and Meet group partnered with the Missions team to make fleece blankets for Family Promise kids. The blankets will be given as housewarming presents to the children of the families when they move into their new housing. (see pictures below and to the right)



On **January 10**, the amazing kids of Eat and Meet became the first champions of “**ARE YOU SMARTER THAN OUR INTERNS?**” The interns and kids answered basic Bible knowledge questions.

The battle was fierce, and the kids won in sudden death overtime with a bonus question worth 11 points! The kids won a box of Hershey bars and the Brentwood Borough Baseball Championship Trophy that Marla’s son Ethan won in 2012! (see picture below)

Congratulations to our Bower Hill kids! A rematch is set for **April**

10 at 6:30 p.m.

The Eat and Meet group meets again on **Sunday, February 14, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall.



goal is 100% participation of all Tweeners.) If a minimum number of Tweeners cannot attend, we will not participate. This is an overnight retreat. All Tweeners and chaperones must stay at Crestfield overnight. The cost of \$65 covers lodging for one night, along with meals and ALL programming. If you have a financial need, please contact Pastor Brian or Marla at 412-561-4114.

Departure time from church is Saturday, March 12, at 9:45 a.m. Arrival time back at church is Sunday, March 13, at about 12:00 noon. Chaperones will transport Tweeners to and from Camp.

Crestfield Camp and Conference Center is the Pittsburgh Presbytery camp and is located one hour outside of Pittsburgh in Slippery Rock, PA. For more information on Crestfield, please go to www.crestfield.net.

To register, please pick up form on the Christian Education bulletin board by the kitchen. Please complete forms and return with payment to Marla or church office by February 21. Checks are payable to Bower Hill Community Church.

SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your summer calendars for **July 11-15 for Bower Hill Day Camp 2016!** Once again,

TWEENER RETREAT

Saturday/Sunday, March 12-13

The Tweeners Retreat is a specially designed overnight retreat for kids in Grades 4-6. This gathering at Crestfield will give chaperones and Tweeners time to grow together as a church group, learn tools for Biblical exploration, worship, learn about God and interact with Tweeners from other area churches.

Things you need to know:

A minimum of FIVE Tweeners are needed to register. (Our goal is 100% participation of all Tweeners.) If a minimum number of Tweeners cannot attend, we will not participate.

Bower Hill will partner with Crestfield Camp and Conference Center to host an ALL DAY Camp for completed grades one through six. Watch for details in the March newsletter.



ADULT EDUCATION

COMMITTEE CHAIR - Steve Boisvert
sdboisvert@verizon.net

Below is our schedule for February 2016. It may be a short month, but we have planned some stimulating classes for the month. Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings following worship to enjoy time for fellowship. Please join us in the new year. If you've never attended a session, give it a try. You'll find stimulating ideas and conversation as we explore what it means to be people of faith in this ever-challenging world.

February 7 & 14: Elder Bill Cadwell will lead two classes from the video series *History of Christianity: The Synoptic Gospels and The Gospel of John*

February 21: The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will continue his series on spirituality and theology in our lives and the life of the church.

Feb: 28: Congregation Meeting:
No Adult Education

KIDS CARE DURING ADULT EDUCATION

This is a reminder that during the Adult Education hour, children attending childcare in Room 110, (lounge across from music room), must be signed in and out by an adult responsible for their care. **Unattended children will not be permitted to stay** and will be sent back to find an adult to sign them into Kids Care. Thanks for your cooperation.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

By official call of the Session, the first 2016 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church, (Presbyterian (USA)), will be held on **February 28** in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service. The agenda for the meeting includes review of the 2015 year-end financial statement, presentation of the 2016 operating budget as adopted by the Session, and approval of the pastor's revised terms of call.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 Annual Report will be distributed to church members in the following way:

- An electronic copy of the report will be emailed to all members with an email address registered at the church office.
- Households without email access may pick up a paper copy of the report in the church office or request that one be mailed to them.
- A paper copy of the report will be given to each household present at the Congregation Meeting. To avoid wasteful paper consumption, we would like to limit each household to a single copy of the report. If you receive a copy in advance of the Congregation Meeting, please bring it with you to the meeting.



NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thank you to all of those who helped make the Advent and Christmas music special at Bower Hill! You are amazing!

Cherub Choir rehearsals will take place at 10:45 a.m. in the Choir Room on the following Sundays:

February 14, 21, 28 and March 6 & 13

The Cherubs will sing in church on Palm Sunday, March 20, and should report to the Choir Room by 9:15 a.m. that morning.

A special thank you to those who helped get the Cherub robes ready to be worn—Kristen Mackey, Ruth Robbins, and Amy Grella—thank you!

NOTE FROM OUR BHCC INTERNS

It has been a pleasure being a part of Bower Hill Church over these past few months. One of our favorite things is being a part of **"Eat and Meet"** which happens on the second Sunday of every month with the Middle School youth. During this time, the youth have fun, learn about God, and serve the community.

At a recent event, the youth made dinner and served the families from Family Promise, which the church was hosting for the week. At another time, the Mission Committee helped the youth make blankets for the needy. It is such a joy to see the children excited and hear about the interesting things that are happening in their lives. It has truly been a blessing getting to know the youth and the congregation.

Sincerely,
Tyler Musher & Jeremiah Wagner

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PLANS

February 7: Transfiguration Sunday
Communion: Exodus 34:29-35; Luke 9:28-36

February 10: Ash Wednesday
Communion: 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

February 14: First Sunday in Lent
Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

February 17: Lenten Vespers
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

February 21: Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35

February 24: Lenten Vespers
7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

February 28: Third Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9



Lent is a time to take stock of your life, examine your habits, draw closer to God, and maybe even mend your ways.

LENT The Season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 10**, with a service of evening prayer at **7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Perhaps you've never been to an Ash Wednesday service before? Perhaps a weekday evening worship service is ideal for your busy schedule? The choir will be singing; Pastor Snyder will be preaching...*and there will be ashes*. All are welcome; childcare will be provided.

LENTEN VESPERS SERVICES

Services of "*evening prayer*" will take place at **7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary each Wednesday during Lent as follows:

February 10 (Ash Wednesday)
February 17 and 24
March 2, 9 and 16

These brief traditional services of "compline" or "vespers" will be followed by an opportunity to discuss and reflect on the Scriptural texts. Members of our congregation will be recruited beforehand to share the story of their faith journey with the group. Childcare will be provided.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**COMMUNION SERVERS**—February 7

Dick & Carolyn Westerhoff, Jason & Kiri Rising

LECTORS

February 7: Cathy Morgan
February 14: Allison Schlesinger
February 21: Jim Cannon
February 28: DJ Geis

GREETERS

February 7: Andy & Inez Baumhammers
Tiffany Marcovsky
February 14: Gary & Mary Gorski, Judy Delestienne
February 21: Ruth & Chris Robbins, Dave Stewart
February 28: Jim & Sarah Cannon, Dottie Carter

USHER CAPTAIN—Kent Jones**ACOLYTES**

February 7: Amelia & Lydon Cameron, Jacob Geis
February 14: Graceann Foster
February 21: Hayden Jones, Nate Rising
February 28: Lindsay & Allie Bruder

COFFEE HOUR

February 7: Saba Family
February 14: Druckenbrod/Schlesinger
February 21: Mitchell Family
February 28: Andrews Family

FLOWER DEACONS

February 7: Beth Robosky
February 14: Mary Good
February 21: Margaret DeLair
February 28: Anne Mitchell

A NOTE FOR THE GREETERS/USHERS

Greeters are reminded that they are also requested to assist in the offering collection on their assigned date. If you switch greeter dates with someone else, please let the church office know so we may recognize the appropriate greeters each Sunday.

Questions? Need to switch or reschedule?**Please contact the following:**

Greeters, Communion Servers
Andy Druckenbrod, Joan Zakor

Lectors: Joan Zakor

Acolytes: Jean Miewald

Coffee Hour: Pat Jacobs

Flower Deacons: Darendra Lease

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



Attendance of our kickoff meeting in January was disappointing, but we are going to give it another try. So plan to join us for **Coffee, Cake & Conversation** on **Tuesday, February 23, at 2:00 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall. This group provides an opportunity to extend our fel-

lowship time from fifteen minutes on Sunday mornings to two hours once a month. Coffee and cake will be provided: the conversation is up to you! Contact Bill Cadwell for more information.

WALLACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The next collection day is **Sunday, February 14**. The Pantry collects food items needed to provide supplies to all their client families. Currently, the greatest needs are for canned fruit, canned tuna, and boxed cereal. A special, ongoing need is for adult men's protective undergarments, size medium. As always, any donations of non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and paper products are welcomed. On behalf of the neighbors served by Wallace, they would like to thank the Bower Hill congregation for their support of this ministry!

BUILDING & GROUNDS INFO AND UPDATE

- ♦ In order to conserve the Sanctuary's heat on cold Sunday mornings during the winter months, we plan to restrict access through the front doors in the Narthex. **Therefore, when the orange cones are blocking the sidewalk, please proceed to the entrance to the hallway outside Fellowship Hall.** Thank you.
- ♦ The installation of new exterior doors, funded by the Capital Campaign, has been completed. The contractor will return to make minor adjustments but, overall, they are functioning and a tremendous improvement to our facility. To help maintain the integrity of the doors and adhere to the warranty, we ask that wedges NOT be used to prop open the doors. The door closures have a "hold open" feature that should be utilized. If you have any questions or need a demonstration on using the crash bars on the doors, please contact the church office.

SENIOR MEN'S GROUP



The senior men's breakfast group will meet on **Wednesday, February 3, 8:00 a.m.** at Kings Restaurant on Route 50 near the end of Greentree Road. The group will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month through April. The group meets in the room to the left of the cashier, and no reservation is necessary. Usually 6-10 church members attend and are welcome to an unstructured discussion of any topic that comes to mind.

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 for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

February 16

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics
by Daniel James Brown

ONCE UPON AN ADVENTURE !!

The Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club wants you to grab your FAIRY TALE and SUPERHERO gear and join them for GAMES, CRAFTS, PRIZES, SNACKS, and other exciting activities for the family!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6 from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Bower Hill Community Church

Ideal for kids 10 and under, and costumes are encouraged. Also featuring an opportunity to create valentines for our real superheroes--the service members deployed from our local area!

\$10/child donation for children 1-10 years old;
Adults and Children Under 1 are Free.

Pay at the door or pay by credit card now!
<http://www.mljwc.com/community-event-1>

Once Upon an Adventure is a Community Fundraiser hosted by the Mt. Lebanon Junior Women's Club (MLJWC).

A portion of the proceeds to benefit The Education Partnership.



Oh, the Weather Outside is (Sort of) Frightful, But Our Cocoa (and Coffee and Teas) Are Delightful!

As winter finally sets in, now is the time to enjoy our organic Fair Trade cocoa as well as our coffee (now in handy K-cups!) and organic teas. Warm yourself up in two ways: enjoy a wonderful hot beverage and support farmers around the world through fair compensation for their toils. The Presbyterian Coffee Project, in cooperation with other denominations and the Equal Exchange Cooperative supports small-scale farmers by eliminating the many layers that traditionally siphon off profits from the people who actually grow the cocoa, coffee and teas. In addition, profits are redirected back to the farmers' communities where they have a say in how the lives of their communities can best be improved. Through this cooperative model, communities have built schools and health centers. PCUSA's Enough for Everyone Program has collaborated with Equal Exchange since 2001.

If you haven't been supporting this program, please consider purchasing some of our Fair Trade products. Coffee is \$8.00 per 12 ounce bag or box of 12 single serve cups. We have two varieties of regular and one decaf coffee available. There are four types of teas (green tea, earl grey, English breakfast, and rooibos teas) which are \$4.00 for a box of 20 tea bags and our organic cocoa is \$6.00 per can. Each Sunday the Equal Exchange cart is located on the way from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. We operate on the honor system for payment. Pick up your coffee, tea, or cocoa and place your check or cash in the offering plate marked "Coffee/Tea/Cocoa" or drop it off in the office if you happen to be at church during the week. Many thanks to all who have supported this project! Fair Trade products are a great way to help small-scale farmers around the world support their families with pride and dignity.

PPI RETURNS TO BOWER HILL!

Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute is reopening its Bower Hill location! Therapist Colleen Clawson, LCSW, is now working out of room 202, "the old nursery."

Colleen sees a wide range of clients, including children and families. She currently accepts Highmark, Cigna, Aetna and Optum Health insurance as well as uninsured clients. She will soon be accepting UPMC, Medicare, and Medicaid. To arrange a confidential appointment with Colleen, call PPI at 412-661-1239.

Colleen is married to the pastor of Jefferson United Presbyterian Church in Jefferson Hills. 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. (Michelle Snyder is executive director.)



February 1	Alan Reece
February 3	Jaime Lease
February 4	Nathan Gray
February 8	Susan Hicks
February 9	Jane Kohman
February 10	Lauren Kocher

February 13	Beth Wilson
February 15	Glenn Williams
February 16	Dennis Geis, Sr.
February 18	Jim Kane
February 19	Karl Casey
February 20	Robert Kantner
February 22	Sarah Cannon
February 24	Taylor Linaburg
February 26	LuAnn McNickle
February 28	Mary Ryfun
February 29	Scott Olinger
February 30	Val Watterson
February 31	Chris Robbins

February 27	Nick Gibbs
February 28	Norma Grubb
February 29	Chris May
February 30	R. J. Henney, IV
February 31	Ginny Mason
February 32	Emily Chin

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.

Fea-



BIG BAND DINNER DANCE "CRUISE"

turing The Wally Gingers Orchestra

Saturday, February 20

Boarding Time: 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$15 Adult/\$5 Child (Ages 4 & under are free)

Escape the cold! Come aboard the Spirit of Bower Hill and join us as we embark on a dinner dance "cruise" in Fellowship Hall. Discover the magic of the big band sound of The Wally Gingers Orchestra, while we dine together and dance the night away. **All are welcome!**

*Reservations are required. Please sign up on the bulletin board or you may RSVP to Sheri Geis or Beth Robosky by Sunday, February 14.

2016 SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

Family Promise



We will be hosting Family Promise a total of five times in 2016. The host week always starts on a Sunday afternoon and ends the following Sunday by 8:00 a.m. Hosting dates are as follows:

February 7-14

April 24-May 1

July 24-31

September 25-October 2

December 25-January 1

Scheduling volunteers begins soon. Many volunteers are needed to prepare meals, serve as evening and overnight hosts, drive, coordinate activities, purchase and organize supplies, and assist in many other ways. Although most hosts are adults, youth can participate as well by arranging activities for young children and socializing with older kids. Volunteering together as a family is a great way to teach your own children generosity of spirit. We are always excited to welcome new volunteers! If you would like to help, please contact our **Family Promise Coordinator, Jean Miewald**: Phone: 412-221-2114; MiewaldJM@upmc.edu

To volunteer or to learn more, contact our **additional Family Promise contacts**:

Dinner Host—Darenda Lease, 412-854-4481 or dlease109@comcast.net

- Consists of preparing a meal for 14 people or less (plus the hosts!). An estimated number of guests and information is usually confirmed / communicated the week before hosting. Meals should be simple; a meat, veggie, starch, dessert.

Overnight—Betsy Hohlfelder, 412-341-1029 or betsyho@verizon.net

- Overnight Hosts arrive at 8:15 p.m.

Drivers—Margaret DeLair, 724-344-7776 or margaretdelair@gmail.com

- Takes approximately an hour of your time and provides you with an opportunity to meet and talk with new people.
- Involves driving the 14 passenger van from BHCC to the Crafton house in the afternoon, picking up our guests, and driving them back to BHCC (and vice versa in the morning).

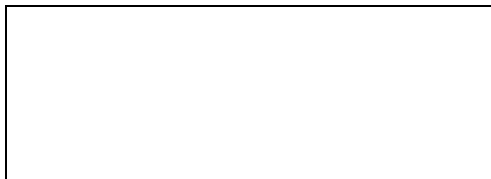
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
br@bhccml.com

Company of Pastors

Rev. Tami Hooker
Rev. Fred Leasure
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes
Rev. John Yohe

Marla Kemmler, Director of Christian Education
and Youth Programs
ma@bhccml.com

Anne Smith, Director of Music Ministries
an@bhccml.com

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.com

Jim Askins, Custodian
ff26emt@gmail.com

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

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

Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

Pat Nuernberg, Friendship Village Health Center, 1290 Boyce Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION

Need a ride to worship? The deacons would like to provide a ride for members who need one. Please contact the Church Office several days before Sunday worship, and someone will help schedule your ride.

ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE A RIDE?

The deacons are compiling a list of people who might be **willing to give rides** to church. There are several people who do not drive who might come to church if they had a ride. If you would be willing to offer rides, please call the church office at 412-561-4114.

