

~THE POWER OF PLACE~

*When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said,
"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."
~Genesis 28:16*

Dear Members and Friends,

If I call you on my cell phone, your own telephone will report that someone is calling from Meadville, PA. It's wrong, of course. I'm not calling you from Meadville. But why do I have a Meadville number? Meadville's not my hometown. I didn't go to college there—though some of you did. I've never lived in Meadville. In fact, I get a lost every time I go there. There is a reason for the exotic telephone number from a faraway place that you may or may not have heard of. The *Reader's Digest* version of that story goes like this:

When I was finishing up seminary, but not yet ordained, I served as "student pastor" at two quaint little churches in the countryside near Meadville. Either one of them could have been pictured on the October page of your bank-issued calendar: traditional wooden belfries, white clapboard walls, slate roofs, gingerbread trim. One of these congregations was doing quite well. The building was a very old "meeting house" with austere, straight-backed benches that were hand-made before the Civil War. Uncomfortable as they were, those old pews were packed each week with about seventy-five worshipers. This forward-looking church had children, and teens, and potlucks, and picnics. (In fact, one of those youths, now grown, is living in the North Hills of Pittsburgh and makes frequent visits to Bower Hill on Sunday mornings!) The church looked old-fashioned from the outside, but they had Internet throughout the building, an up-to-date phone system, air-conditioning, a FAX machine, a good sound system, and all the standard office gadgets of the age. They even heated and cooled their 175-year-old building with a network of geothermal tubes beneath their churchyard and gravel parking lot!

The other church, well, let's just say that they weren't into renewable energy. In fact, this second church suffered from a palpable lack of energy. Each Sunday morning when I finished up the earlier service at the crowded church, I would jump into my car and—still dressed in robe and collar—I'd speed down narrow country lanes to the other church. Upon my arrival, hurried and breathless, the sharp contrast between the two churches always made my heart sink. There were about twenty-five in worship at this church, not a one of them under the age of sixty-five. They, too, had a charming, historic building that sat among fields and wooded hills. But it was dark and musty. It was barely heated in the winter, and hotter than a foundry in the summer. At this church, I had to photocopy the weekly worship bulletins myself on an ancient machine, just one step above a mimeograph. There was no FAX, no Internet, and no telephone! The novelist Barbara Kingsolver says that a mother always favors her weakest child; the same might be true of a pastor who leads two (or more) churches. I coddled the smaller church more than the bigger one. I poured a disproportionate amount of energy and attention into it. I set up websites for both congregations, and I decided that it would never do for the smaller congregation to remain phoneless. So when I purchased a cell phone for myself, I named that church's village as my "home location" and circulated my cell as the church's number. (No one ever called except the CCLI people trying to collect their annual dues for the church's use of copyrighted choir music.) And yet, for all my efforts, this little congregation remains the only church that actually withered away under my touch. Attendance dropped sharply while I was there.

The ancients believed that every place—every forest, every building, every bog—had its own guardian spirit, called a "numen." In fact, our word "numinous" comes from this old superstition. Now, I don't attribute it to angels, or devils, or ghosts, but I've always wondered how two churches, so similar in every way, could have two such different spirits about them. One had an air of excitement and joy. The other felt airless, sad, tired out. It begs the question: What do people feel when they walk through the doors of Bower Hill Church? Do they feel better for having been here? Do you leave church knowing that "the presence of the Lord is in this place"? I always do, and I think it has something to do with all of you.

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



THE STEEPLE IS FINISHED AND PAID OFF

The work on the Steeple has been completed and the bills have been paid because members have made payments on the pledges they made to the Capital Campaign. A celebration ribbon cutting is being planned for June. Watch for the details and plan to participate.

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.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 221st General Assembly will be held in Detroit on June 14-21. Anyone interested in reviewing business pending before GA can do so by visiting the PC-BIZ website (www.pc-biz.org). On the first visit to the site, click on "Create a New Account" under "Login to the Site" to establish a user password. Once that has been done, all currently pending overtures and other business can be reviewed and the daily GA proceedings can be followed.

SENIOR MEN'S BREAKFAST

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Tuesday, June 3. 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.



THANK YOU, WALKERS AND SPONSORS!

Thanks to all the folks who walked or sponsored walkers on the Walk for a Healthy Community last Saturday. Family Promise raised over \$5450 which beat their goal of \$5000. And the Bower Hill Bulldogs were the TOP fundrais-

ing team for Family Promise at over \$1000, which blew away our goal of \$500.

FAMILY PROMISE ACCEPTING DONATIONS

The Family Promise *Home Again* program accepts gently-used furniture and household goods to pass on to families who successfully complete their program. So far this year, nine families have moved from Family Promise into homes of their own -- that's a 90% success rate! Currently, they are most in need of the following: dressers (a very highly-needed item), mattresses and box springs, dining chairs, end tables, TV stands, lamps, bed pillows (new only, please), towels & wash cloths, shower curtains, rings and liners, silverware, microwaves, cleaning supplies. Please contact Laura Vincenti at 412-921-2916 to arrange your donation.

**LOOK
at THIS!**

MORAINE PLAY DAY

Saturday, June 7th, we will have a day of fun and frolic at Moraine State Park. Bring boats, balls, bikes, bathing suits, beverages and bowls of side dishes to share. Parish Life will provide the main dish for this day of being together. Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Car pools can be made available if needed. More information about time and location coming soon. Rain date: Sunday, June 8th.



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. Please note that food insecure families are often taxed when school lets out and subsidized school food programs end. Now would be a good time to double up on breakfast and lunch offerings for kids home from school!





Save the date
and join us
for these special events!

Sunday, July 20
Askins Family Diaper Shower

August 4-8
VBS: Mission Week
3rd—6th grade
(see page 7)

Saturday, June 7
Moraine Play Day
Moraine State Park
(see page 2)

Saturday, August 23
All-Church Picnic

June 30-July 3rd
VBS: Scavenger Hunt
Preschool — Grade 2
(see page 7)

Sunday, September 7
Kick-Off Sunday

Saturday, July 12
Washington Wildthings Game

Friday, October 24 - Sunday, October 26th
Women's Retreat

THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING



- June 01 Kirsten Rising
- June 02 Dick Junker
Andy Druckenbrod
- June 03 Judith Linaburg
- June 05 Nina Helbling
- June 06 Laura Philson
- June 07 Char Balentine
- June 08 Howard Sutch
- June 11 Alma Johnson

- Wayne Colley
Lily Philson
- June 12 Bill Gardner
Nancy Salvante
- June 17 James Cannon
- June 18 Dylan Lease
Delaney McDonough
- June 19 June Schriber
Katelyn Cole
- June 20 Tim Lease
- June 21 Louise Burroughs
- June 22 Gloria Julian
Rick Jacobs
- June 23 June Stewart
Mary Good
Juliet Cameron

- June 25 Alfie Watterson
- June 27 Nicholas Kane
- June 28 Andrew Stewart
Melanie Cole
- June 29 Andy Kerner
- June 30 Kirk Ketchum

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!



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.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in accompanying the music through the Easter season: the Chancel, Handbell, and Children’s Choirs, Jason Robosky, Chris Robbins, Amanda Vosburgh, Rich Salvante, and Carla Drummond. Being able to share your talents with the congregation is wonderful. Thank you for your time and willingness to add to Worship!

The Chancel Choir will sing through June 15. Following that, there will be a sign-up sheet for those who wish to participate in the music program through the last week in August. This sheet will be on the piano in the front of the sanctuary. There is opportunity for a maximum of three separate pieces for each Worship service, so you may sign up for a date even if someone has listed their name already, up to three people/groups. Please consider sharing your talents with the congregation. There is no age limit, the young and young-at-heart are all most welcome to participate. I want to thank again those who attended my junior recital in April. I am completely overwhelmed with gratitude at the attendance of those from the congregation at Bower Hill. Thank you so much for supporting me through my educational endeavors. I have completed my junior year at Duquesne, and look forward to a relaxing summer before starting my senior year at the end of August.

WORSHIP PLANS

June 1: Ascension Sunday, Communion
Acts 1:6-14, I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

June 8: Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21

June 15: Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Matthew 28:16-20

June 22: Second Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 21:8-21

June 29: Third Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 22:1-14



We welcome the
2014 Confirmands!

Nicholas John Kane

Abby Margaret Waine

**Celebrating Their
Confirmation**



2014 SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN JUNE 1.

Volunteer Nursery helpers and Sunday School helpers are needed this summer. Please see a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway for dates. Volunteers just need to have a heart for children! No need to worry about preparing a thing! Volunteers just need to show up!

Ages Infant – Pre-school will meet in the nursery.

Children entering Kindergarten to 3rd grade (in the 2014-2015 school year) will meet in the lounge. They will travel the world learning about different mission sites around the world. They will also work occasionally in Sandi’s Garden.

Children entering 4th grade and up (in the 2014-2015 school year) are asked to attend worship. We hope parents will embrace this time to share worship with their kids.

SANDI'S GARDEN IS READY TO GO FOR SHIM'S FOOD PANTRY!

After a long, hard winter spring is finally here! BHCC's Sandi's Garden needs your help to make this another successful gardening season in support of SHIM's Food Pantry that provides food-insecure families with fresh produce. This year our children started the ball rolling by starting seedlings in March that they planted May 18. They will have their own garden beds, but we need the congregation to help fill out the garden by donating either pepper plants (you choose - hot or sweet peppers) or bean seeds. Plants and seeds can be left on the mini-greenhouse in the narthex.

You can also help by signing up on the bulletin board on the way to Fellowship Hall for a week of watering the garden. We have a rain barrel for water and a few minutes two or three times a week, depending on weather, is all it takes. It's a great opportunity to help SHIM and see how productive our small garden is.

Many thanks to all who have and will make this project so successful!



BHCC members plant Sandi's Garden on May 18th.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS NEWS: FROM DAVE HICKS



Our "Earth Day Lite" on Saturday, May 17th, was sparsely attended but a success nonetheless. Thanks to Tim Lease for organizing the work effort on short notice and to Tim & Darena Lease, Mary Good, Bill Ewing and Glenn Child for working so hard. We made a pretty good dent on the weeding that needed to be done in the gardens in the front of our church. Also, thanks to Mary Good's leadership, the Memorial Garden area was weeded and mulched in late April and looks great. Kiri Rising's help was greatly appreciated. As we all know, our church has many garden areas that require our attention for edging, weeding, etc. We don't need to wait for an Earth Day to work on the gardens. If you have a few hours and want to help with this effort, that would be great. You can get your hands dirty and enjoy being outdoors, all while helping to keep our grounds beautiful. Call Dave Hicks at 412-427-6606 and he'll tell you which areas need the most attention.

In the very near future, perhaps as early as when you are reading this newsletter, work will have started on the renovation of the children's playground area. We have contracted with a certified playground installation contractor to replace the surface to bring it into compliance with federal safety requirements. They will also relocate one or two pieces of equipment. The work will involve removing 12" of soil and installing a 3" base of gravel for drainage and 9" of mulch material. They will also install a French drain system to keep that area as dry as possible. Many thanks to Betsy Holzfelder, Mary Good, Lynn Foltz, and Rick Jacobs for volunteering their time and expertise to this project, and thanks also to all who supported the Capital Campaign. Without the campaign, we probably would not have had the money to do this important project.

We are getting bids from several contractors to replace the two sets of doors that lead out to the Memorial Garden and the door used by Dart as their entrance into our building, and to repair the door outside Fellowship Hall that opens toward Moffett St. Hopefully, that work will be completed this summer. Thanks to Mary Good and Bill Andrews for their help.

Church Leadership (2015-2017)**Session Class of 2015**

Betsy Hohlfelder
Woody Hughes
Tim Lease
Gordon Mitchell
Rich Salvante
Mary Beth Waine

Session Class of 2016

Troy Bailey
Glenn Child
Pat Jacobs
Keith Mason
Jean Miewald
Jason Robosky

Session Class of 2017

Steve Boisvert
Theresa Child
Sheri Geis
Rick Jacobs
Cathy Morgan
Jason Rising

Deacons Class of 2015

Linda Johnson
Kate Junker
Nancy Salvante
Joan Zakor

Deacons Class of 2016

Nancy Criswell
Maggie DeLair
Darenda Lease
Shelly Saba

Deacons Class of 2017

Nancy Geis
Mary Good
Beth Robosky
Josie Sheldon

2015 Nominating Committee

Cynthia Gissin
Dave Hicks
Chris Robbins
Donna Williams

SUMMER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	GREETERS	ACOLYTE	COFFE HOUR	LECTOR	COMMUNION
6/1/2014	June Captain: Karl Casey; Betsy Prine, LuAnn McNickle	Lydon Cameron (CB), Ellie and Nate Rising	Jacobs	George Freas	Steve & Debbie Boisvert, Mary Beth Waine, Cynthia Gissin
6/8/2014	Lucille Heckman, Marian Brannan, Nina Helbling	Madelyn Salvante (CB), Julian Salvante, Chloe	Delair/Gissen		
6/15/2014	Betty Ewing, Pat & Rick Jacobs	Sydney Saba (CB), Graceann Foster, Leo Geis	Mitchells		
6/22/2014	Shelly & David Saba, JoAnn Goode	Sage Williams, Lindsay Bruder	Joan Zakor		
6/29/2014	Jennifer & Bob Foster, Mary Good	Madelyn and Julian Salvante			
7/6/2014	July Captain: Keith Mason; Bill Cadwell, Scott & Mary Beth Ryfun	Ellie Rising (CB), Nate Rising, Leo Geis			Rick & Pat Jacobs, Anne & Gordon Mitchell
7/13/2014	Grafton Eliason, Troy & Emily Bailey	Lydon Cameron, Chloe Snyder			
7/20/2014	Glenn Child, Glenna Creaves Kakaria, Theresa Child	Sage Williams, Sydney Saba			
7/27/2014	Jean Miewald, Lee Ferrero, Josie Sheldon	Lindsay Bruder, Graceann Foster			
8/3/2014	August Captain: Peter Morgan; Lynne Wohleber, Joan Zakor, Mar-	Leo Geis (CB), Lindsay Bruder, Sage Williams			Margaret Zabo, Lynne Wohleber, Troy Bailey, Mary Good
8/10/2014	Gordon & Anne Mitchell, Betty Ewing	Chloe Snyder, Sydney Saba			
8/17/2014	Dawn Kane, Phyllis Madden, Susan Mangold	Ellie and Nate Rising			
8/24/2014	Phyllis & John Yohe, Sally Child	Madelyn and Julian Salvante			



Marla Kemmler
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

On Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, Shelly Saba, Rich Salvante and I had the honor of chaperoning six Tweens at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center for their very first retreat! Eight churches from our Presbytery attended. A total of 80 Tweens and chaperones attended. We learned the whole book of Johnah, played games, made new friends and slept in Crestfield's brand new cottages. We had so much fun that the Tweens can't wait to return to Crestfield! I asked the Tweens to send me a few thoughts on the retreat to share with you all. I hope you enjoy reading their thoughts!

GRACEANN FOSTER

"I had a great time at Camp Crestfield. There was so much to do. Syd, Madelyn, Ellie, Nate, Julian and I were there. When we were there, we studied the Bible and ate yummy food. We explored a little bit and went in big soccer fields. Madelyn identified a plant called "skunk cabbage." When you pull it out of the ground, it smells like skunk. P U! Miss Marla and Mrs. Saba were the guides for the girls and Mr. Salvante was there with the boys. After we studied the Bible, Miss Marla took us to see the OLD girls cabins. We had a lodge. Our lodge was awesome. In the morning, we even made hot chocolate. I slept on the top bunk. In the little field outside our lodge was a little playground with a swing, slide and monkey bars. That is were we played on the field. I am so sad that I left before we played Swamp Ball. This was my trip to Camp Crestfield. I hope I get to go back again. Thank you for taking us.

ELLIE RISING

"At this camp I learned a lot! Not only did it open my eyes to God, it made me realize things I didn't ever know. In the story of Jonah, I didn't realize he was trying to run AWAY from God. He didn't want to fight. He was scared. So when God brought a storm, Jonah jumped into the ocean in hopes to stop the storm, and God saved him. I also got to meet new friends that learned with me along the way. Camp Crestfield was a great opportunity for us to learn more about Christ."

NATE RISING

"It was fun! Tether ball was fun! Also, we learned a lot about the bible lesson of Jonah. I thought it was cool that we made Bible stuff into a game of '4 corners'! The food was really good. We played this fun Frisbee game too. That is my experience at Crestfield."

MADelyn SALVANTE

The retreat was fun, I liked all the activities, especially swamp ball! I learned that you should always listen to God. I also liked when Sarah told us the story about Jonah. I liked hanging out with all the girls. And I enjoyed sleeping over.

JULIAN SALVANTE

I liked the retreat because of all the games, especially the Frisbee game. Nate and I LOVED playing tetherball. Sarah told some funny stories about her dog. I wish I could have stayed longer!

VBS AT BOWER HILL! CONTACT THE OFFICE TO REGISTER.

**SCAVENGER HUNT:
FINDING MY PLACE IN GOD'S STORY"
June 30-July 3rd
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 2nd grade. The week will be filled with games, crafts, snacks, and fellowship. Kids that have completed 3rd through 6th 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 3rd - 6th 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.

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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OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder, Pastor
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

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

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Emily Kerr, Secretary
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.