

## ~With the Wild Beasts~

*“The Spirit immediately drove him [Jesus] 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,

As a failed English teacher—a person who loves good fiction, and poetry, and words well-used—I sometimes wish the Bible had a little more in the way of “concrete imagery.” You know, the rich descriptive language that you were taught to use back in freshman comp? The Scriptures typically don’t have much use for “word pictures.” Because the physical task of writing was so slow and laborious in ancient times, much early literature gets straight to the point. The Gospels, especially, tend to tell even the most poignant tales in a simple, matter-of-fact way. “And Jesus wept.” “And there they crucified him between two thieves.” “He is not here. He is risen.” When you do happen across descriptive language in the biblical texts (which is mainly in the Samuels, and the Hebrew Prophets, and the Revelation), it’s because the writer is trying to tell you something that succinct language cannot convey.

Poetry can say things that laconic prose cannot. That’s why I’m so taken with the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. It’s an anomaly. Mark is as economical with his words as most New Testament writers. But Mark One goes to the trouble of describing John the Baptist’s wardrobe and diet. It likens the Spirit to a dove. It goes out of its way to tell us that, after his baptism, Jesus fled out into the wilderness for forty days, where he was “tempted by Satan.” Mark deems it necessary to inform us that, in the wilderness, “he was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.”

Mark’s not usually a poet or a big talker, but he gives us a stark visual image of those forty days in the desert. He implies forty days of hardship; forty long afternoons of searing sunlight in the narrow shade of a rock; forty cold desert nights spent on the chilly ground; forty days of fending off the wild beasts, bands of hungry jackals, feral dogs, cobras, and birds of prey. Or perhaps those beasts were not enemies but—like the angels—his only friends. Have you ever wondered how exactly “Satan” tempted Jesus out there among the rocks, and the sunlight, and the wild beasts? Tempted him to do what?

I believe Jesus was tempted to turn his back on his own belovedness. I believe he spent those forty hard and lonely days struggling with the voice that he heard at his baptism, telling him that he was chosen and loved. Jesus spent his time in the wilderness coming to terms with the realization that he is God’s own, that he can no longer live quietly for himself. Now that he knows he’s loved, he must throw his life into all causes of love out there in a greedy and unjust world. But why the wild beasts? Mark is surely telling us that silence and solitude will force us (and perhaps enable us) to face the beasts in the wilderness of our spirits...and in our world.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Lenten devotional packets will be available in the Narthex. Weeknight worship services will be announced. But before that holy season of soul-searching is upon us, before it all begins, let me ask you a question: How might you spend the forty days of Lent distancing yourself from the noise of the world, opening yourself to the new possibilities of this season, facing the wild beasts in your own inner desert? Easter morning is coming, with its lilies and green buds. But first...a season with your beasts.

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



## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The next collection date for Wallace Food Pantry is **February 8**. The Pantry collects food items that they will need to provide supplies to all their client families. Your donations are always appreciated.

## SENIOR MEN'S GROUP: WEDNESDAYS

Senior men's breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, February 4**, and will continue to meet on *first Wednesdays* through April. 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. Join us.



## 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 17:** *All the Light We Can Not See*  
by Anthony Doerr

## YOGA OFFERED FOR ALL ABILITY LEVELS

All-Levels Yoga is offered in the Lounge on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a yoga mat and a beach towel. The cost is \$8. Proceeds from the class will be donated back to the church. For additional information, please contact Carla at 704-258-4900 or follow on Facebook at "Carla Ann Drummond Yoga."

## FROM THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

In order to keep the Narthex clear of plastic bins for the collection of food pantry items, clothing donations and other such material, the bins have been moved. They are now located to the left of the right-hand door into the sanctuary. There are also bins outside the church office.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



By official call of the Session, the first 2015 regular meeting of the congregation of Bower Hill Community Church, Presbyterian Church (USA), will be held on **February 22** in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service. The agenda for the meeting includes review of the 2014 year-end financial statement, presentation of the 2015 operating budget as adopted by the Session, and approval of the pastor's revised terms of call.

Bill Cadwell, Clerk of Session

## BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

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 on the Memorial Garden side to the hallway outside Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

## MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORM

When you have a request such as repair, event setup, cleaning or any other issue requiring Jim the custodian's attention, you are asked

to complete a card titled Custodian Request Form. These pink cards are located in the small black box on the counter inside the church office.

Please complete the form and leave it on the Secretary's desk.



## CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of Presidents' Day, the Church office will be closed on **Monday, February 16**.



**A Note of Thanks to All Who Bought Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa in 2014**

Equal Exchange and all of the farmers who belong to the cooperative and the communities that have benefited from your purchases would like to thank those whose purchases supported projects to improve their lives all around the world. Over one million pounds of organic, fairly traded cocoa beans and 500,000 pounds of traded cocoa beans went into the chocolate products, including their delicious cocoa. Equal Exchange customers enjoyed over 5.5 million pounds of fairly traded coffee.

Some of the projects these purchases supported are:

- The Uganda Stove Project to help Ugandan women build energy-efficient cooking stoves that are 50% more efficient than their traditional stoves and provide a smoke-free environment for their homes.
- The Red Cherry Project to help farmers in Guatemala and El Salvador deal with the coffee rust problem and other climate change-related issues that are making it harder for farmers to sustain their coffee farms.
- The Small Producer Symbol program that is a certification run and governed by small-scale farmers.
- A conference of farmer-to-farmer workshops and networking to provide an opportunity for small-scale farmers to help each other and share their knowledge and experiences.
- The Grow Together Fund to support a cashew tree-planting project in a Honduran cooperative. Rather than simply fund the project, the program created a Revolving Loan Fund to make short-term loans to cooperative members.

There are many more projects that your purchases support throughout the year. All of them involve cooperative members and the communities in which they are located choose which projects to undertake and take part in managing them. Another key ingredient is sustainability. Because these projects are initiated at the local level and not imposed from above, they are more likely to be successful and long-term.

Once again, thank you for your support in 2014 and don't forget to stop by the Fair Trade cart on your way to Fellowship Hall following worship. We operate on the honor system, so pick up your coffee, tea and/or cocoa and drop payment in the offering plate the next week.



February 1	Allan Reece Nancy Geis	February 10	Beth Wilson	February 27	Chris May Nick Gibbs Norma Grubb Troy Bailey
February 3	Jaime Lease	February 13	Glenn Williams	February 28	R. J. Henney, IV
February 4	Nathan Gray	February 15	Dennis Geis, Sr.	February 29	Emily Chin
February 8	Susan Hicks	February 16	Jim Kane		
February 9	Betty Eisenbeis Jane Kohman	February 18	Karl Casey		
		February 19	Robert Kantner		
		February 20	Sarah Cannon Taylor Linaburg		
		February 22	LuAnn McNickle Mary Ryfun		
		February 24	Scott Olinger Val Watterson		
		February 26	Chris Robbins		

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.

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

**USHER CAPTAIN:** Mike Riemer

### COMMUNION SERVERS

Bill Cadwell, Dave Green, Nancy Green, Jason Robosky

### COFFEE HOUR

February 1 Donna Williams  
February 8 The Grellas  
February 15 The Andrews  
February 22 The Risings

### LECTOR

February 1 Tim Lease  
February 8 Scout Sunday  
February 15 Lynn Foltz  
February 22 Chris Robbins

### GREETERS

February 1 Gloria Child, Christie Cole,  
Jim Corbett  
February 8 Dave May, Connie May  
Mary Lou Frock  
February 15 JoAnne Goode, Woody Hughes,  
Barb Hughes  
February 22 Phil Johnson, Linda Johnson,  
Dawn Kane

### ACOLYTES

February 1 Henry Druckenbrod, Avery Saba,  
Sydney Saba  
February 8 Graceann Foster, Jacob Geis,  
Leo Geis  
February 15 Lindsay Bruder, Allie Bruder  
February 23 Nate Rising, Henry Druckenbrod,  
Ellie Rising

### 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.

### Problems? Questions?

**Please call the office or contact:**

Greeters, Communion Servers: Jason Robosky / Josie Sheldon

Acolytes: Jean Miewald

Lectors: Joan Zakor

Coffee Hour: Sheri Geis

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP INFORMATION

### February 1

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Communion  
Psalm 111, Mark 1:21-28

### February 8

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Scout Sunday  
Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

### February 15

Transfiguration of the Lord  
II Kings 2:1-12, Mark 9:2-9

### February 18

Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Worship  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;  
Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

### February 22

First Sunday in Lent  
Genesis 9:8-17, Mark 1:9-15



Anne Carper Smith  
anne.smith839@gmail.com

**Sunday**  
8:45 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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

### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Effective February 1 and going forward, **Choir Rehearsal** on Sunday mornings will be held from **8:45 to 9:30 a.m.** Thursday evening's rehearsal schedule remains unchanged.

### CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Also beginning on February 1, children are invited to attend choir practice in Room 110 at 11:00 a.m. during Kids Care. Miss Anne will be working with all children from Pre-school through Grade 4 to sing during worship on Palm Sunday and Easter.

A special Mother's Day presentation is in the planning stages and will include participation from children of all ages. Additional information will be mailed.



Marla Kemmler  
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE**

Preschool- 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed after the children's sermon to their classes. Please meet your children in Fellowship Hall after worship for pick up.

Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will meet in the Chapel and Room 207 (Noah's Ark Room).

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade will meet in Room 203 (God's Garden).

5<sup>th</sup> grade and up will remain in worship. This group will meet after Coffee Hour in the Chapel. Our prayer is that this group will establish a basis for the return of Bower Hill's Youth Group!

**KIDS CARE (SECOND-HOUR)**

Children attending Kids Care in Room 110 during the Adult Education hour, must be dropped off and picked up by an adult responsible for their care. An adult's signature is required for admittance to Kids Care. Unattended children will not be admitted.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

The Tweener Retreat at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center is scheduled for **Friday/Saturday, April 24-25**. Grades 4-6 are encouraged to sign up. Registration

forms can be found on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. If you have any questions, please contact Marla at ma@bhccml.com or call 412-670-2313.



Parents, please be sure to save the dates **July 13-17** for your kids to attend our new and exciting **summer programming**. Details will be provided in early February!

**Summer Programming**



**ADULT EDUCATION**



Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45 to 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings following

worship to enjoy time for fellowship. If you are a regular attendee, you've come to expect a wide variety of stimulating ideas and lively conversations that help us explore what it means to be a people of faith who believe we are called to be involved in this ever-challenging world. If you've never attended a class and give us a try, we think you will be glad you did. Elder Steve Boisvert is the Chair of Adult Education.

**FEBRUARY'S SCHEDULE:**

**February 1:** The Capital Campaign Celebration of the Haiti Water Project will be held during the Adult Education and Second Hour time. Participants will be able to visit different stations to learn more about what goes on during the Haiti Travel Team trips to Haiti.

**February 8:** Greg Roman from the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh will discuss how the Jewish and Presbyterian communities of Pittsburgh are working together to maintain mutual respect.

**February 15:** The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will continue his series on spirituality and theology in our lives and the life of the church.

**February 22:** BHCC's Mission Committee will screen Part One of the film "A Place at the Table" which focuses on addressing the issue of hunger in America and how it can be eliminated.

**March 1:** BHCC's Mission Committee will screen Part Two of the film "A Place at the Table" which focuses on addressing the issue of hunger in America and how it can be eliminated.





**SAVE THE DATE!!**

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming All-Church Bowling Event on **Sunday, March 15**. Watch for details and sign-up sheets as the date approaches!



**DIAPER SHOWER FOR THE BOISVERT FAMILY**

New members Ben and Carolyn Boisvert are expecting their second child at the end of February or in early March. Please join us during Coffee Hour on **Sunday, February 8**, to shower Ben and Carolyn with diapers, wipes and well-wishes to help them prepare for the arrival of the newest member of their family.

**March 22-29**

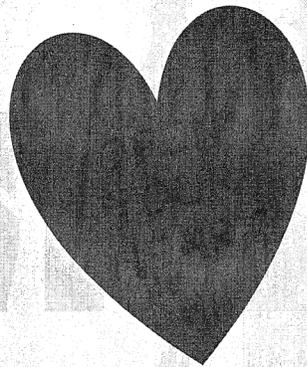
Family Promise at BHCC

**April**

**Spring Flea Market**

Start your Spring Cleaning early and bring in your donations for the Flea Market.

Details forthcoming.



**VOLUNTEER  
OPEN HOUSE  
2015**



*South Hills  
Interfaith Ministries*

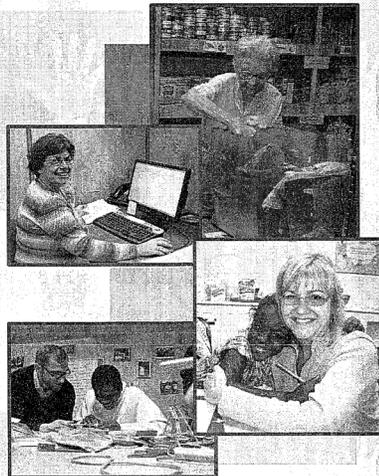
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015 9:00am - 12:00pm**  
SHIM Center • 5301 Park Avenue • Bethel Park, PA 15102

*Join us and learn about  
volunteering from SHIM  
Staff and other volunteers!*

- Direct Assistance
- Children and Youth
- Coaching and Mentoring
- Administrative and
- Teen Opportunities!

Please RSVP to Natalie Klimas,  
SHIM Volunteer Coordinator at  
412.854.9120 x106 or  
nklimas@shim-center.org

Parking available in  
Bethany Lutheran Church  
at 5303 Madison Ave.  
behind our office.



[www.shim-center.org](http://www.shim-center.org)



# 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

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

Anne Carper Smith, Director of Music Ministries  
[anne.smith839@gmail.com](mailto:anne.smith839@gmail.com)

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

Karen Reynolds, Church 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  
**Betty Eisenbeis**, 730 Bower Hill Road, Apt. 219, Pittsburgh, PA 15243  
**Ethel La Barbera**, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017  
**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  
**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.



## 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 contact Kate Junker at:  
[katejunker@aol.com](mailto:katejunker@aol.com).