## **Bower Hill News**

July/August 2014

# ~Branching Out...Again~

"At night God's song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life." ~Psalm 42:8

Dear Members and Friends.

(Presbyterian USA)

A three-quarters moon rose in the east, surprisingly radiant. It was June. My three ladies were asleep, so I ventured out onto the front porch to gaze at it. The light was otherworldly. Its silvery glow transfigured all the living world into something luminous, a fantasyland modeled only vaguely on the place I know by day. Like most front yards, ours is mostly ornamental and rarely visited, except to be mowed. But by the light of the moon, an ordinary yard becomes a brilliant place, a place of endless possibility. I followed the moonlight down off the porch and out into parts of my property where I never go after dark. By moonlight, I drifted over to the area we call "the side field." For all I know, satyrs dance there by night; I've never checked. There's nothing to see or do over there after dark. A clothesline, a vegetable garden, a rotting split-rail fence. It's true that the borders are porous over in that direction. Neighborhood dogs (and their owners) lay claim to our side field. But in reality, it belongs to us just as much as the room where I sleep each night. It's as much ours as the little spot with the recliner and lamp where I spend so many leisure hours, reading. By rights, I could set a folding chair out in the field at 3:00 a.m. to read a book by flashlight. By rights, I could sleep in a tent out there in the middle of January. But I don't. With nightfall—and in the winter—I withdraw indoors, and the field becomes a little less mine. It's the after-hours domain of "Grimalkin," the fierce old feral cat who lives in the cellar of our ramshackle summer kitchen. Darkness transforms the field into a wild country of roaming deer, and local dogs, and garden tools left laying treacher ously underfoot. But it wasn't wild on that night. The moon had visited it with a serene beauty that only the moon can give. On that night, the moon-glow caused oak leaves to shine like the riffling water of a midnight brook. And as I wandered around the side field by the light of the moon, I wondered a little sadly, "How have I allowed darkness and wintertime to take this lovely place away from me?"

The cold and the dark cause us to hunker down and turn inward. They chase us out of places that are rightfully ours and send us to hover like moths around electric lights in climate-controlled rooms. May, for me, is a month of constant outdoor labor: putting in the garden, mowing, hacking away at wild vines (the "unholy trinity" of poison ivy, Virginia creeper, and wild grape-vine—which threaten to engulf modern civilization and consume everything ever planted or built by human hands). It's only in full summer that I step back and gaze upon my small domain to see not a toilsome to-do-list, but a beautiful place for living, a thing of joy. I love the way summertime causes us to branch out into ourselves once again, reclaiming the fullness of our life with all its places and moods.

"Branching Out" was the theme of our recent capital campaign, and it was appropriate! It feels like summertime at Bower Hill Church in more ways than one. With ever-growing numbers of children in the Christian Education program, we are expanding into parts of our building that sat more or less unoccupied for years. The chapel—which saw only four Advent services per year, plus the occasional funeral—is now being prepared for weekly junior church. Long-neglected classrooms are being reclaimed for Sunday school. Due to the increasing number of small children in our midst, we've had to move the nursery into a larger room—the old library. Our whole campus is becoming a tool for mission; we've planted a "Boaz vegetable garden" in a once-disused yard! The few classrooms that still don't have a class are home (literally) to Family Promise. Today, we see our church expanding, branching out, "reclaiming the fullness of our life." It's an exciting time to be Bower Hill Church.

There's a larger lesson to be learned here, and it is this: No season lasts forever. There was once a season of "hunkering down" in this place, but by God's grace a new day has dawned over us. In the same way, the darkness and cold that you may face today is not eternal. It all passes, as do our bright summers. That's why my favorite name for God is "Eternal One," which I borrow from the French. God alone is eternal, but Christ's joy keeps cycling back around for all of us time-bound humans.

Happy Summer to You,

~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 deadline for the September Kick-Off edition of the newsletter is August 15th. Newsletter Volunteers will meet August 28. There will be no mailing to fold in July. Please call the office with any questions or concerns.

#### 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.

#### 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!

# WASHINGTON WILD THINGS JULY 12, 7:05 P.M.

Bower Hill families will return to Consol Energy Park on Saturday, July 12, for another evening of baseball and fun activities. Please reserve your seats early by adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the Parish Life bulletin board. Payment can be made to BHCC; please indicate your name and the number of tickets paid for. Reserved group tickets are \$7.00 each for adults and children. Gates open an hour before the game. Children who arrive by 6:30 can join the players as they run through the High Five tunnel to their positions on the field.

Note that league policy prohibits outside food and drinks. For more information contact Mary Beth Waine

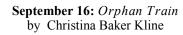
(<u>mbwaine@verizon.net</u>) or visit www.washingtonwildthings.com

### **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.

July 15: Odds by Kathleen George

**August 19:** *One Thousand White Women* by Jim Fergus



#### **SUMMER COFFEE HOUR**

It is a longstanding tradition at Bower Hill Church to have coffee hour on the front lawn during the summer months. This custom has not been aban-

doned! However, the doors from Fellowship Hall to the front yard are currently not operational. We will return to an openair coffee hour after the doors have been replaced or repaired. Until then, please join us for coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your patience.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Would you like to purchase sanctuary flowers or make a donation to the charity of your choice in memory or honor of a loved one? The following dates are open: September 28 and October 5. Contact the office for details.



## DIAPER SHOWER: JULY 20

Custodian Jim Askins and wife Amy will welcome their fourth child into their family later this year. Help us welcome the new addition by bringing a package of diapers or wipes to coffee hour on

July 20th.



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



#### 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.

June 30-July 3<sup>rd</sup>
VBS: Scavenger Hunt, Preschool — Grade 2

Saturday, July 12 Washington Wildthings Game

Sunday, July 20 Askins Family Diaper Shower

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

Saturday, August 23 All-Church Picnic

Sunday, September 7 Kick-Off Sunday

Friday, October 24 - Sunday, October 26th Women's Retreat On Saturday, August 9, at 5:00 p.m., there will be a high school brass concert in our sanctuary.

Jessica's colleague Ryan Wolf, a trumpet instructor in the South Fayette area, has created this event for area high school brass students. This concert will end their week of Brass Camp.

All are invited to attend this wonderful concert!

THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING: Please take a moment to read through the names, pray for them, and offer them your best wishes!



Happy Belated Birthday to Earl Kennedy, who celebrated on June 3rd!

Have we missed YOUR birthday?
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!

July 01: Mary Laufer, D.J Geis

July 04: Glenn Child, Jennifer Gardner

July 05: Bill Ramsey, Kristen Mackey

July 13: Carolyn Westerhoff, Debbie Seifert

July 14: Glenna Creaves Karkaria

July 15: John Theilacker

July 18: Ray Henney

July 19: Amanda Vosburgh, Adeline Gray

July 20: Linda Johnson, Mathew Linnaburg

July 23: Todd Williams

July 24: Phyllis Yohe, Dave May, Wyatt Gray

July 27: William Madden

July 29: Mathew Dunfee, Dawn Kane, Ruth Robbins, Jenny Harness,

Elaine Mackey

July 30: Jim Burke

July 31: Betty Mitchell, Bob Bridges

Aug. 03: Emmalyn Gray

Aug. 04: JoAnn Goode,

Mary Beth Waine

Aug. 05: Zoe Eliason

Aug. 07: Maya Williams, Brody Knox

Aug. 10: Susan Mangold, Carl Kelly, Amanda Gray

Aug. 14: Nancy Green, Craig Grella,

Sage Williams

Aug. 15: Len Heisey

Aug. 16: Cathy Colley, Monette Shuttleworth

Aug. 18: Stephanie Kerner, Emma Hicks

Aug. 21: Bill Cadwell

Aug. 23: Bob Ferrero, Joan Bridges

Aug. 28: Michela Robbins

Aug. 31: Jean Miewald, Catherine Morgan,

Adam Gissin

#### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS: JULY

#### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

Kate & Dick Junker, Mary Beth Waine, Cynthia Gissin

#### GREETERS

July 6: Bill Cadwell, Scott & Mary Beth Ryfun July 13: Grafton Eliason, Troy & Emily Bailey

July 20: Glenn Child, Glenna Creaves Karkaria, Theresa

Child

July 27: Jean Miewald, Lee Ferrero, Josie Sheldon

#### **COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS**

July 6: Robbins Family July 13: Shwallon Baptism July 20: The Greens July 27: Kantner Family

#### ACOLYTES

July 6: Ellie Rising, Nate Rising, Leo Geis
July 13: Lydon Cameron, Chloe Synder
July 20: Sage Williams, Sydney Saba
July 27: Lindsay Bruder, Graceann Foster

#### WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS: AUGUST

#### COMMUNION SERVERS

Margaret Zabo, Lynne Wohleber, Troy Bailey, Mary Good

#### **GREETERS**

**August 3:** Lynne Wohleber, Joan Zakor, Margaret Zabo **August 10:** Gordon & Anne Mitchell, Betty Ewing

August 17: Dawn Kane, Phyllis Madden, Susan Mangold

August 24: Phyllis & John Yohe, Sally Child

August 31:

#### COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS

August 3: The Watterson Family
August 10: The Lease Family
August 17: The B. Boisvert Family

August 24: Cynthia Gissin and Carl Kasey

**August 31:** The S. Boisvert Family

## ACOLYTES

August 3: Leo Geis, Lindsay Bruder, Sage Williams

**August 10:** Chloe Snyder, Sydney Saba **August17:** Ellie and Nate Rising

August 24: Madelyn and Julian Salvante
August 31: Graceann Foster, Lydon Cameron

#### WORSHIP PLANS

July 6: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30, "Wisdom's Deeds."

July 13: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23, Genesis 25:19-34 "A Tale of Two Brothers."

July 20: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, Genesis 28:10-19a "Asleep on Holy Ground."

July 27: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 29:15-28, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 "Treasure Hidden in a Field."

August 3: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Matthew 14:13-21, Genesis 32:22-31 "Walking with a Limp."

August 10: 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 16:24-28, Genesis 37:3-4, 12-28 "What Profit Is It?"

August 17: 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 15:21-28, Genesis 45:1-15 "Forgiveness."

August 24: 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 1:8-22 & Exodus 2:1-10 "Fear."

August 31: 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 3:1-6, 7-15 "I Am Who I Am."



July 13, 2014

We celebrate the baptism of

Andrew Clarence Shwallon & & Alison Kettjapo Shwallon,

children of Lisa and Jason Shwallon.

### PITTSBURGH HISTORY & LANDMARKS AND OUR STEEPLE (From Mary Good)

Did you see the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation sign in the front lawn during our steeple renovation? Did you wonder how they got involved with our project? It began in September 2012 when my husband Paul saw an article in the paper about a workshop for their Historic Religious Properties Program. "That's right up your alley. You should go." So I registered last minute and went the next day.

PHLF understands the vital role of religious properties in offering social services that benefit the surrounding community. And they realize the financial challenges of maintaining those buildings. To be eligible for the grant, I needed to prove that BHCC: (1) was in an architecturally-significant building at least 50 years old (just made it!), (2) had an active congregation, (3) was capable of raising matching funds, (4) offered social services that benefit the surrounding community (DART and the Braillists wrote supporting letters), and (5) would be willing to accept a PHLF "Historic Landmark" plaque if offered.

I also needed to submit two proposals from certified contractors. Thankfully, we on the Building & Grounds Committee already had those. Alan Hohlfelder took the required digital photos of the damage for me to include. All documents were ready for the November 2012 deadline.

BHCC and ten other congregations were each awarded \$7,000.00. While the grant stipulated that the work must be completed in 2013, the extreme winter weather and the additional repair work complicated the time-line. PHLF granted my two requests for extensions. After proving that we had paid the contractor in full and after the Foundation's construction manager had inspected the completed work, we received our grant check in May.

#### REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE



Now that the fundraising part of the campaign has created this wonderful pool of money to help improve the BHCC building, it's important that we are good stewards of the money pledged and collected. The Capital Campaign Committee is responsible for that.

As of June 2, \$247,790 has been received in cash or capital asset gifts. From that money the steeple loan has been repaid and the steeple project completed. It will be recommended to Session at the June meeting that 10% of the money raised be transferred to the Mission Committee for disbursement to our mission agencies.

The next project is the reconstruction of the playground. Plans have been received and reviewed, and construction should begin shortly. There are sufficient funds in the Campaign Fund to complete this project.

Future projects will be prioritized based on funds collected and what was promised to the congregation during the campaign. It is not the committee's intent to micromanage the actual spending but rather rely on the individual Session committees to make recommendations, working within the commitments made to the congregation during the capital campaign.

The Capital Campaign Committee will report to session on a monthly basis. Watch the newsletter for updates or ask one of the committee members: Kirsten Bruder, Lynn Foltz, DJ Geis, Rick Jacobs, Tim Lease, Gordon Mitchell, Jason Rising, Jason Robosky, or Margaret Zabo.

## LIBRARY UPDATE



The church library has moved to Room 101, across from the office. It is the first room on the right as you enter the hallway from the Por-

Step 1 is complete – all the books have been moved and most are on the shelves. A special thank-you is extended to Boy Scout Troop 28 and Cub Scout Pack 28, for their willingness and strength to move 40+ boxes of library church and strength to move 401 books from one room of the church downstairs **Library** to another room. We appreciate your help!

Step 2 will continue over the next few months. Irrelevant materials will be removed and books will be check for order.

If you are looking for a book, check out the online catalog on the BHCC web page!

Go to: www.bhccml.com Click: "Serving the Community" Select: "Library Catalog" Search for a book by TITLE or KEYWORD or AUTHOR

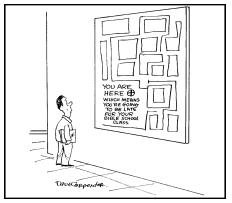
You may also ask Carolyn Westerhoff for help or give her any suggestions you may have to make the library more "user friendly"!

# WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE INVITATION From Jason Robosky

When I joined BHCC, I took it for granted that everything operated smoothly behind the scenes: the worship service runs without a hitch, the church grounds are kept safe and attractive, there are always plenty of mission and fellowship activities, and there are funds perfectly allocated to keep everything running. But these things don't just happen passively. Active committees are the heart-beat of our church family that keeps us vibrant, engaged, and successful.

To remain strong, these committees rely on church members to dedicate their energies in whatever capacity they can. I'd like to extend an open invitation to join the Music & Worship Committee. This committee is charged with the oversight of all aspects of the worship life of BHCC including communion preparation and servers, ushers and greeters, lectors, acolytes, candles and banners, sound system and listening device operation, wedding coordination, defibrillator maintenance, printed pew material upkeep, and music program enrichment.

Please consider becoming involved. If you are interested in contributing your input and talent to any of these areas, please contact me about joining the committee or participating in some aspect of our oversight. Ideas for improvement are always welcome and necessary. The Worship & Music Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room. I look forward to seeing you there!



#### **NEW ROOM NUMBERS AT BHCC**

Have you noticed the new, black numbers above the doorways at BHCC? Rooms are now marked by number on our new map, on the church calendar and above the doors. This makes our facility easier to navigate for visitors and new members, and also by public safety officers in case of emergency.

Pick up a new map in the office!

#### Session Responsibilities (2014-2015)

Clerk of Session Bill Cadwell

Church Treasurer Gordon Mitchell

Commissioners to Presbytery Troy Bailey and Bill Cadwell

Administration and Personnel Session Chair: Rick Jacobs Session Member: Woody Hughes

**Building and Grounds**Session Chair: Tim Lease
Session Member: Cathy Morgan

Capital Campaign Session Chair: Jason Rising Session Member: Gordon Mitchell

Christian Education (Children) Session Chair: Betsy Hohlfelder Session Member: Sheri Geis

Christian Education (Adult) Session Chair: Steve Boisvert Session Member: Mary Beth Waine

> Communication Session Chair: Glenn Child Session Member: Theresa Child

Finance and Stewardship Session Chair: Troy Bailey Session Member: Jason Rising

Mission and Outreach Session Chair: Jean Miewald Session Member: Keith Mason

Nominating Session Chair: Theresa Child Session Member: Keith Mason

**Parish Life**Session Chair: Sheri Geis
Session Member: Pat Jacobs

Worship and Music Session Chair: Jason Robosky Session Member: Gordon Mitchell

**Youth Ministries** Session Chair: Rich Salvante Church Member: Amy Grella



Marla Kemmler ma@bhccml.com

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

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

Did you know that Christian Education has a Vision Team? This team of people has been meeting for the past several months to evaluate all the children's programming at Bower Hill. The Vision Team is recommending the following changes to Sunday school for 2014-2015:

Nursery care will be offered for newborn through 2-year -olds. They will meet in the nursery before worship begins.

In the Fall, the following age groups will be dismissed to their class after the Time With Children:

**Preschool to 2nd grade** will meet in one room together. The curriculum will change to Children & Worship, which is a spiritual formation approach that presents a joyful way for children to worship God.

It invites children and adults to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials.

This method is easier to understand when it is presented to parents. We will transform the chapel into a worship center for the kids. Marla will be the story teller in the room for the first year. One or two room helpers will be needed each Sunday. These helpers can rotate every week. The Vision Team hopes to invite the congregation to an open house to see the new Worship Center and present a story in August.

**3rd-4th grade** will learn more in-depth lessons about people in the Bible. Marla is now currently looking for material. Teachers will be asked to teach an entire unit on a person in the Bible for two to four weeks, depending on the curriculum. Teachers will rotate after the completion of a unit.

The biggest change will be for our **5th and 6<sup>th</sup> graders**. This group will attend the entire worship service and then during the second hour they will meet with Marla and Amy Grella. This group will learn more about how to put their faith in action in their everyday life.

If you have any questions about these changes please feel free to contact one of the Vision Team members: Betsy Hohlfelder, Amy Grella, Marla Kemmler, Kiri Rising, and Rich Salvante.

#### MISSION WEEK 2014

Mission week will be a fun-filled week of service and fellowship. Each day we will travel to local missions to help make a difference in our community. During the morning hours we will travel to our mission sites, then return to the church for lunch and fellowship. On Friday we will enjoy a day at the Pittsburgh Presbytery camp, Crestfield, in Slippery Rock Pa.

### **Mission Sites**

Monday: Bower Hill Community Church Tuesday: Computer Reach Wednesday: SHIM

**Thursday:** Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in Duquesne **Friday:** Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

#### Things you need to know

Who can attend: Kids who have completed grades 3rd to 6th and anyone over 18

Cost: \$10 for per person (fee covers fun day activity)

**Time:** Days start at 8:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

Wear clothes that you can get dirty.
NO FLIP FLOPS! Close-toed shoes only!
Transportation to work sites will
be provided by adult chaperones.

Bring a bagged lunch every day.
(Except Friday-Lunch will be provided by Crestfield)
Space is limited to 20 kids.
Permission slip can be found on the church bulletin board.

## 2014 SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



**Ages Infant – Pre-school** will meet in the nursery (Room 200).

# Children entering Kindergarten to 3rd grade

(in the 2014-2015 school year) will meet in the lounge (Room 110). 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.

## BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

70 Moffett Street Pittsburgh, Pa 15243

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2335

Pittsburgh, PA

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## **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.