

“THERE IS A RIVER...”

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam... There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” ~Psalm 46:1-4a

Dear Members and Friends,

There are few things to love more than a river. A river can be fast and loud, or it can be slow and silent. A river can be rocky, or deep, or narrow, or wide. Take a southward trip upstream along the Youghiogheny—one of the world’s few north-flowing rivers, and one of my favorites—and you’ll find that a single river can fit all of these descriptions at different points in its journey. Like all water, a river has only one ambition, which is to be where it is not. But that’s what makes rivers so magical, more so than lakes, and swamps, and ponds; all rivers journey toward the sea, the mother of life. Their course is inexorable; you can divert them and slow them down, but you cannot stop them. The great civilizations rose up on the banks of rivers: the Nile, the Indus, the Yellow River, the Euphrates. Every great city in the modern world has its river: the Seine, the Thames, the Hudson, and of course the Ohio. You can see why the psalmist contrasts the fearful moodiness of the ocean with the steady benevolence of a river. For the psalmist, the ocean is a frenzied, unknowable void of dangerous, useless saltwater. It’s home to the pre-Jewish chaos-god, “Leviathan,” a thing of fear. (Spielberg capitalized on this primal fear in his “Jaws” movies.) By contrast, a river is a source of life and abundance. A river is not as dramatic as an ocean, but as a religious symbol, it’s more potent and positive.

Pittsburgh has become a significant center for American Hinduism precisely because Indian immigrants liked the symbolism of our three rivers. Rivers speak of journey, and new life, and both reliability and change. The river’s endless flow suggests the never-ending march of time and the passing of all things, as well as their renewal. If I could design a chapel, I’d seriously consider making its focal point to be a mural or a stained glass window that depicts Jesus stepping into the Jordan River to be baptized. That decisive event was the turning point of Jesus’ life...and indeed the life of the world.

And so, what’s my point? Well, so much of life is a chaotic ocean nowadays, unpredictable and prone to violent extremes. An insidious extremism has made its way into our politics and our religion. It says, “All or nothing, no compromise, no cooperation.” Social commentators say that our nation is more polarized now than it’s been since the Civil War. The global scene, too, is overrun by extremism. As technology makes the world smaller, people retreat more and more into their social, ethnic, and ideological (or religious) enclaves in order to feel safe. The more they withdraw, the more they’re tossed about on the troubled seas of our times, for they make themselves smaller than they’re meant to be. “The earth changes,” the psalmist says, “and the waters roar and foam.”

And yet! And yet, “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.” There is an alternative to bobbing around in the frenzied, troubled waters of our world. The frequent, regular practices of faith are a discipline that brings direction and balance to our living. The life of faith is a river, not a still pond, not a tumultuous ocean. It’s a river that bears its blessings to a crazy world without being overrun by the craziness, a river that bears us wisely in its course to places yet unknown. As we kick off another “program year” at Bower Hill Church, I encourage you to wade out into the river.

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



Save the date and join us
for these special events!

Sunday, September 7
Kick-Off Sunday

Sunday, October 12th
5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Fall Fest Potluck

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

Saturday, November 1
Progressive Dinner

FALL FEST POTLUCK



Come join us on Sunday, October 12, at 5:30 p.m. for an all-church potluck dinner. Bring a fall-themed dish or dessert to share. There will be fun activities for all ages, including good old-fashioned bobbing for apples! Children are also invited to bring their own pumpkin to paint. If you are interested in coming, please sign up on the bulletin board so that Parish Life can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!

FALL FLEA MARKET COLLECTION



We continue to collect items for the Fall Flea Market (we pretty much collect all year, but the fall collection officially begins in September). Due to the success of the spring flea market, we cleared out much of our "inventory" so we have lots of space for new items! All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday before or after worship.

If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. PLEASE NO CLOTHES OR LARGE FURNITURE! If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519 or treeoowon@yahoo.com.

Branching Out



THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
"PROGRESS BRANCH"

On the corridor wall just opposite room 202 (the old nursery), there is a sculpture of a branch. This branch is a notice board—or a checklist—that announces the completion of projects undertaken during our "Branching Out" Capital Campaign. One leaf of the branch already displays our newly refurbished steeple, which was the first capital campaign promise kept! A second leaf will soon display a photo of our recently renovated playground, the second capital campaign promise kept thus far. When all the branch's leaves are covered in photos of completed projects, then all the goals of the capital campaign will have been met. We are grateful to Jim Burke and Glenn Williams for dreaming up and crafting this creative "progress branch."

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 cream, vegetable, and beef-based soups (but of course, as always, all non-perishables are useful). They are also starting to collect dessert mixes for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner bags. When bringing in desserts, please donate a complete kit (cake plus icing, for instance).

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.

September 16: *Orphan Train*
by Christina Baker Kline



SAVE THE DATE!

The BHCC Progressive Dinner will be held on November 1. If you are interested in opening up your home to be one of our hosts, or if you are willing to lend a helping hand to one of our generous hosts, please contact Sheri Geis.



SANDI'S GARDEN GOING STRONG THROUGH THE FALL!



Once again Sandi's Garden has been successful in supporting SHIM's program to provide fresh produce to its Food Pantry clients. This year Bower Hill's children have been an important part of the project. In the spring they started Swiss chard and hot pepper seedlings indoors. At the end of May they transplanted the seedlings to the garden and planted bush and pole beans. Throughout the summer they visited the garden and helped keep it going. In August they learned a new word, "gleaning," when they gleaned the remaining beans from the first crop of bush beans to make sure we didn't leave any beans behind. How fitting for a project SHIM has named "Boaz Fields" (look it up!). We intend to keep the children involved this fall as we do our best to stretch the harvest season as far as we can. As we all know, fresh produce is expensive, but an important part of a healthy diet. Many thanks to the many who donated seeds and plants as well as those who volunteered to keep our garden watered!

Also, if you are among the gardeners whose neighbors immediately run in the opposite direction when they see you coming to avoid having the excess of your garden overwhelm them, consider donating it to SHIM. Simply leave it in the kitchen refrigerator labeled "SHIM Produce" by Sunday morning and it will be delivered to SHIM the following Tuesday morning.



Martha Van Horn

12-19-1928 — 06-26-2014

Leonard Heisey

08-15-1924 — 06-29-2014

Albert Eisenbeis

11-12-1921 — 08-15-2014

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- September 01 Dottie Carter
- September 03 Emily Philson
Davis Gray
- September 05 Margaret DeLair
- September 07 Gus Watterson
- September 08 Erin Hohlfelder
Amelia Cameron
Lucy Kantner
- September 09 Eric Williams

- September 12 Doris Olinger
- September 13 Andrew Snead
- September 15 Dave Gallagher
Missy Kerner
- September 17 Carol Knox
- September 18 Chloe Snyder
Jonathan May
- September 23 Henry Druckenbrod
- September 24 George Vosburgh
- September 25 Amy Grella
- September 26 Chan Ketchum
- September 27 Michael Waive

- September 28 Gordon Mitchell
- September 29 Ethel La Barbera
Ruth Foltz
Tiffany Marcovsky
Paul Kantner
Ellena Gibbs

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

If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information.

ADULT EDUCATION: FROM STEVE BOISVERT, CHAIR

Adult Education has been an important and integral part of Bower Hill for many years. The committee offers its grateful thanks to Dave Green for his past leadership in maintaining a strong program. We are confident that this tradition will continue during the coming year. There are a few changes of note. Bower Hill has been welcoming a growing number of families and young children, resulting in the need for more space in our Nursery and Adult Education class. The Nursery has been relocated to the room previously used as our Library. Beginning on Kick-off Sunday, September 7, Adult Education will meet in the Friendship Room. Also new this fall season, the Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will be leading one session a month on a spiritual or biblical topic.

Adult Education meets from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. Sunday mornings after worship and a time for fellowship. Below is our schedule for the months of September and October. If you are a regular attendee, welcome back! 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.

September 7: Barbara Ivanko, President and CEO of Family Hospice and Palliative Care, will be discussing how the Affordable Care Act is affecting hospice care.

September 14: The Rev. Doug Portz from Pittsburgh Presbytery will present "What really happened at GA?" The class will discuss actions taken by General Assembly, and their reverberations throughout the church, nationally and locally. Discussion will focus on how local churches can constructively respond in light of these actions. The Rev. Portz will also share how churches in Pittsburgh Presbytery are responding.

September 21: The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will host a session on "Why and how we worship."

September 28: Megan Palomo from Phipps Center for Sustainable Landscape (CSL) will discuss how Phipps Conservatory's CSL achieved LEED Platinum status and how an organization such as Bower Hill can incorporate sustainable practices as we go through some renovations, as well as what members can do at home in this area.

October 5: There will be a roundtable session with members of the Haiti Travel Team discussing our accomplishments and challenges to date, and how our Haiti Water Project can be most effective in supporting our current partners and moving forward with potential new partners.

October 12: Elder Michele Hanna-Snyder will lead the first of two sessions on "Growing Faith Through Doubt."

October 19: Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will host a session on a spiritual or Biblical topic.

October 26: Elder and Clerk of Session Bill Cadwell will review the book *The Smartest Kids in the World*.

KICKOFF SUNDAY: SEPTEMBER 7**Please join us!**

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.....8:45 a.m.

Worship Service in the Sanctuary.....9:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 4th grade and Below.....9:45 a.m.
*For a full schedule of children's Sunday School classes
 and locations, see page 5.*

Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall.....10:30 a.m.

Adult Education , Friendship Room (201)...10:45 a.m.
*Childcare is provided in the nursery (Room 200) and the ground floor
 lounge (Room 110) during the adult education hour.*

5th Grade & Up, C.E. Office (105)...10:45 a.m.

WORSHIP PLANS

September 7: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
 Kickoff Sunday, Communion
 Matthew 18:15-20; Romans 13:8-14
 "The Law of Love"

September 14: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 18:21-35, Romans 14:7-12
 "If We Live or If We Die"

September 21: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 16:2-3, 11-15; Matthew 20:1-16
 "A Spirit of Generosity"

September 28: 16th Sunday after Pentecost
 Matthew 21:28-32; Philippians 2:1-13
 "A Spirit of Humility"

FOR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS, PLEASE SEE INSERT



Marla Kemmler
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

WOW! What an exciting summer we have had at Bower Hill. Summer programming kicked off traveling around the world in Summer Sunday School to learn about different countries. We traveled to Kenya, Ghana, Peru, Hollywood and Miami just to name a few. Summer Sunday School was officially finished on August 24.

As part of our Summer Sunday School, we worked three times in Sandi's Garden. We planted peppers and sweet chard in early spring. A few weeks ago we gleaned the bean crop which yielded four pounds of beans. Two weeks later, the kids replanted new bean seeds with the help of Steve Boisvert.

Vacation Bible School for preschool-2nd grade was held June 30-July 3. Everyone who attended enjoyed finding their place in God's Story. A huge thank you to everyone who helped!

Mission Week was held August 4 to August 8. This fun-filled week sent our 4th graders and up out into the world to serve. In the mornings we would go out to our work sites. On Monday the kids cleaned our sanctuary and two Sunday school rooms. Tuesday we traveled to a non-profit called Computer Reach. Computer Reach rehabs old computers for people and organizations who cannot afford new computers. We learned that even cleaning computer cords is important because everyone deserves to have their used items look new. Wednesday we traveled to SHIM. Miss Doris taught us about food insecurity and we sorted school supplies which we used to pack 50 backpacks for kids. Thursday we visited The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in Duquesne. We took a tour of the giant warehouse and packed Go Packs.

In the afternoons, after lunch at church, Cathy Morgan came in to teach us sign language. We all learned how to sign the Glori Patri. The week was not just about serving but fellowshiping together every day by eating lunch and playing games. And on Friday we traveled to Crestfield, Pittsburgh Presbytery Camp and Conference Center in Slippery Rock, to have fun canoeing, rock wall climbing, and learning archery.

A huge thank to the following for helping Mission Week a success Jean Miewald (She took a whole week's vacation to be with us!), Kiri Rising, Betsy Hohlfelder, Brian Snyder, Cathy Morgan and Jessica Baier.



THE FUN DOESN'T
END WITH SUMMER!
SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF
STARTING SEPTEMBER 7!

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

Pre-school to 2nd graders will start a new program called Children's Worship. They will meet in the Chapel and Room 207 (Noah's Ark Room). The great news about this program is that anyone can volunteer for just one Sunday. Just like volunteering for the summer, you only need to have a heart for kids. Marla will have the lesson plan ready and all you need to do is show up! There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. PLEASE be sure to sign up!

3rd and 4th grade will meet together in Room 203 (God's Garden). CE is excited to add a few dads to the teaching rotation. This group also has new curriculum called Feasting on the Word.

The most exciting new programming is for our **5th grade and up**. They will attend worship. After worship they are invited to meet with Marla and Amy Grella in Room 105 (Marla's Office). We will be exploring Faith Questions. A permanent room will be announced after the first meeting on September 7. The prayer is that this group will be basis for the return of Bower Hill's Youth Group! This will be a work in progress, so please share any feedback good or bad as the year progresses.

CALL FOR ACOLYTES



Beginning on Sunday, September 7, Acolytes will again participate in the worship service. All children 2nd grade and above are eligible to be acolytes. Jean Miewald will be working with the children each Sunday.

If your child was an acolyte in the past year, they will be included in the list for 2014-15. If your child is eligible and has not participated in the past, you should contact Jean at 412-221-2114 so he or she can be included in the schedule. Once it is known who is participating a schedule will be sent to each family.



At Camp Perrin

SUMMER HAITI TRIP BY BETSY HOHLFELDER

Part of the Haiti Water Project team (Darenda Lease, Rick and Pat Jacobs, and Betsy Hohlfelder) made another trip to Haiti in early July. Unlike past trips, we did not go to install a water purification system, but rather to visit prior installation sites and to meet with potential future partners. Each time we return to Haiti we learn a bit more about the country, its people and how to do a better job in the work we feel called to do. We were also struck anew at how welcoming and joyful the Haitians are and at the incredible beauty of many parts of Haiti.

Our week began by meeting with Betsy Wall (Executive Director) and Pierre Richard (Country Coordinator) of Foundation for International Development Assistance (FIDA). They assist communities who are interested in forming productive agricultural co-operatives. One of the communities that they have been working with (Lafiteau, which is not far from Port-au-Prince), has identified the need for clean water as one of their top priorities. Betsy and Pierre Richard had agreed to introduce us to their Co-operative Board so that we could describe our water system and its capability, and to see if there might be an interest in a future partnership. It was a good meeting, with lots of questions raised on both sides. A positive of working with a group such as this one is that they have self-identified the need for clean water (and are more likely, therefore, to make optimal use of it), and they have a solid, democratically elected leadership in place to help promote the operation and usage of the system.



Water Building at Valiere

Our next meeting was with the water board of Life is Wealth Orphanage in Carrefour Feuilles (not far from Port-au-Prince). We had previously visited this site during our November 2013 trip, and had tested the water and determined that it was bad. There are about 65 orphans who live there, as well as a school for about 500 children on site. It is a busy place! Our meeting this trip was to discuss the roles and responsibilities of each party in a water system installation and to establish a working rapport with our Haitian counterparts. We are tentatively planning to return to Haiti to install a system at this orphanage in early November.



Meeting at Valiere

The next part of our trip involved revisiting four of the sites where we had previously installed water systems. It is important to continue to strengthen our relationships with each of our Haitian Operating Partners, and this trip allowed us the time to do this. In particular, we spent time at two of our first installations (Torbeck and Camp Perrin) and did some retraining of their health and hygiene educators. We introduced a few new activities, repeated some of the most important past activities, and gave them the chance to practice what they had learned by presenting to the group. We also had discussions with the leaders and operators at all four sites and encouraged them to continue to expand the utilization of the systems.

It really was wonderful to revisit the communities where our systems are operating. There is true affection between our team and the people at each site, and our return visits help to solidify this bond. The Haitian Operators have taken excellent care of the systems and they run into few problems in their operation. The biggest area where improvement could be made is to increase the number of people who are drinking the water from the systems. While low usage of the water systems by the communities has been frustrating for our team, we are encouraged that Camp Perrin has shown much improvement from its initial months of operation, and one of our newest sites (Vernet) is operating well above the volume of most Living Water systems in Haiti.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our Bower Hill family for the Haiti Water Project. Your prayers and gifts (especially the most recent Capital Campaign gift!) sustain us and go with us each trip. Thank you!

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE
SHERI GEIS, PARISH LIFE CHAIR



I am pleased to report that because we have so many willing participants, the coffee hour schedule is now filled into March 2015! If you are not currently on our list but are interested in hosting coffee hour, please contact Pat Jacobs to be added to the rotation. Based on the current number of hosts, each party on the rotation only needs to host once every seven or eight months. The more people we have in the rotation, the less often each party will have to host.

If you would like to host coffee hour but are hesitant because you have never done it before, never fear. There are directions posted in the kitchen to help guide you, and there are always friendly faces around willing to answer questions or lend a helping hand. You may also consider partnering with an experienced host for your first time. If you are unable to commit to being on the coffee hour rotation at this time, perhaps you would be willing to serve as a backup on an as-needed basis. Just let us know.

For all of our coffee hour hosts currently on the rotation, please note that a copy of the schedule will be posted for your convenience on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. In the event that you are unable to host on your assigned date, please take it upon yourself to find a replacement. You may talk to other hosts on the list and switch dates as needed. We kindly ask that you inform Pat Jacobs of any changes made, so that she can maintain an accurate copy of the schedule. Please also feel free to contact Pat with any questions or in the event that you are unable to find a replacement for your assigned date.

Finally, please note that extra coffee hour supplies have been moved to the metal storage unit in the kitchen near the oven. A supply list will also be posted in the kitchen along with a check sheet that can be returned to the office to alert the secretary to shortages in supplies. This will help us to keep the supplies adequately stocked.



A NOTE FROM FORMER MUSIC DIRECTOR, JESSICA BAIER

To my church family at Bower Hill Community Church,

It is bittersweet to announce that I have accepted the Music Minister position at St. John Neumann Catholic Parish in Franklin Park. It is a very large church with many opportunities that will advance my career. I am looking forward to it, though I am sad to be leaving Bower Hill.

These last couple of months have been life-changing. My boyfriend of almost two years, Peter Bucci, asked me to be his wife at the end of June (I said, "YES!"), I am starting my senior year at Duquesne University, and now I will be starting this new position at St. John Neumann. Through the good times and the bad times I have been through in the last seven years, you have been there for me in different ways, and I am so blessed to have known you.

I will never forget everything that you have done for me—there is no possible way I could list everything that I am thankful for, and there is no way that I could express how much you all have meant to me in this time as your Director of Music. Especially to my choirs, instrumentalists, soloists, and those who have served on the Worship & Music Committee—you have been my sole support system. I could not have made it this far without you.

In the musical *Wicked* which is a spoof of the *Wizard of Oz*, there is a beautiful song called "For Good" that I think somewhat expresses my feelings towards you all. Listed below are some the lyrics.

*I've heard it said that people come into our lives for a reason,
 Bringing something we must learn,
 And we are lead to those who help us most to grow if we let them,
 And we help them in return.
 I know I'm who I am today because I knew you.*

*It will may be that we will never meet again in this lifetime
 So, let me say before we part:
 So much of me is made of what I've learned from you.
 You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart.
 And now whatever way our stories end,
 I know you'll have rewritten mine by being my friends.
 Because I knew you, I have been changed for good.*

These are the only words that can somewhat express how I feel about this transition. I hope you know that I mean every word. Through this time of change, I hope you will keep me in your prayers, as you have been in my prayers these last seven years.

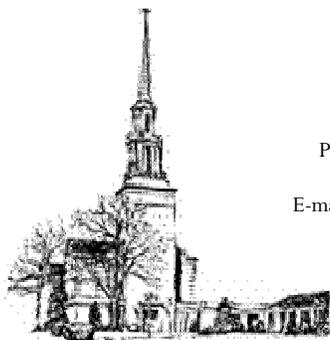
With much love and blessings,

Jessica Baier

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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THE CHURCH OFFICE

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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
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.



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.