

~ Giving Thanks ~

“In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

~1 Thessalonians 5:18

Members and Friends,

There are only a few things that I even try to cook. I'm not sure why; I've had plenty of opportunities to learn, but I stick to a mere handful of dishes. When it comes to the culinary arts, I can do omelets, several kinds of soup, a few West African dishes, custard, and pumpkin pie. Actually, pretty much everything I cook ends up having a West African flair to it...except the custard (which has fallen out of fashion anyway) and the pumpkin pie—few things are more distinctly American. Even as I write, the house is filled with the scent of pumpkin pies, made from homegrown pumpkins, baking in the oven. It's curious because I don't especially love pumpkin pie. It's just that pumpkins are so easy to grow, and they make such an “autumnal” smell when they're baked into pies. Baking is a fun way to spend an evening when Michelle is out of town, too.

Not to boast, but I once made one of my famous pies for Family Promise, and the guests loved it. One of them asked why it tasted so much better than other pumpkin pies, and of course the reason was because it was not made from canned pumpkin, but from fresh, locally and organically-grown pumpkin. At first she didn't believe me! She honestly thought that pumpkins could only be used for jack-o-lanterns, as if Del Monte alone knew the secret of cooking and pureeing them. And she was so grateful. She said, “Wow, so you're telling me that you planted a seed, watered it, watched it grow into a pumpkin, and then you picked it, cooked it into a pie, and brought it here for us? That's like giving us part of your life or something!” I was impressed by her insight, for that's exactly what it amounted to: giving her part of my life. It's what all of us do when we give of our energies, and our time, and our efforts to feed and house homeless strangers in our church. We're giving them part of our lives, the only kind of gift that really counts. Some recipients are grateful and others less so. Still, we give.

But as I smell the pies baking this evening, I feel especially grateful. I bake them mostly just for sport. My life affords me the leisure, and freedom, and resources to do that. My life affords me enough acreage to grow the things, too. And not just that, but the smell of them brings back good memories of autumns past, holidays, happy times with loved ones I will not see again on this side of the Great Unknown, people who gave me more than a little part of their lives, and who continue to bless me long after their deaths. I cannot even begin to count the many blessings that fill my life with joy and meaning. I'm blessed with all that I need and most of what I desire. I'm blessed with faith, and with family, and with friends. I'm blessed to serve a church that I truly love. I'm blessed with “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,” as the wonderful old hymn tells it.

And you, in this season of thanksgiving, what are you blessed with? Your list is probably as long as mine. Oh, I know, there are worries aplenty and sorrows enough to go around. But you'll have time to think on those things later. Just for now, ask yourself this question: What am I grateful for? And whom? A sure cure for unhappiness is to dwell on the blessings of your life, to hold them up to the light and examine them, to smell them, and taste them, and listen attentively to them. A grateful heart is a joy-filled heart. If you take time to be grateful, it will make a real difference in your life.

In Christ's Peace,

~Brian

P.S. Bower Hill Church is hosting the 49th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on **Tuesday, November 24, at 7:30 p.m.** For forty-nine years, Jews, Catholics, Lutherans, and Presbyterians along the Bower Hill Road corridor have been giving thanks together on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. In these times of division and polarization, interfaith worship is indeed rare...and a true sign of hope. Attendance at this unique event has not been good in recent years, so please show your gratitude and support by taking part!



ADULT EDUCATION

Steve Boisvert, Chair

Below is our schedule for the month of November and the first week of December. Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m., Sunday mornings after worship and a time for fellowship. 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.

- Nov. 1:** Dan Kysela will share the work of VALOR Clinic Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to improving access to, and quality of healthcare and shelter for Veterans.
- Nov. 8:** Susy Robison, Director of Outreach and Volunteer Services for the Homeless Children's Education Fund, will share the work her organization does as advocates for children who are unstably housed.
- Nov. 15:** The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will continue his series on spirituality and theology in our lives and the life of the church.
- Nov. 22:** Peggi Kelley, South Hills Coordinator for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, will discuss the services her organization provides and give participants an insight into the issues immigrants face in integrating into the greater Pittsburgh community.
- Nov. 29** Thanksgiving Weekend - No Adult Education — Deck the Halls
- Dec. 6:** Elizabeth Echavarria, President of Living in Liberty, will share how her organization offers a secure safe house for victims of human sex trafficking and does street outreach with victims on the streets.

KIDS CARE

Children attending childcare in Room 110, (lounge across from music room), during the Adult Education hour must be signed in and out by an adult responsible for their care. Unattended children will not be permitted to stay and will be sent back to find an adult to sign them into Kids Care. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping Bower Hill kids safe.



DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED

Marla Kemmler—ma@bhccml.com

Please welcome Bower Hill's new children/youth interns, Jeremiah Wagner and Tyler Musher.

Jeremiah and Tyler are part of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center's Young Adult program. The Young Adult program is designed to help young people discern if they are being called into ministry. Jeremiah and Tyler will be observing Sunday morning children and youth programming, along with helping every month at Eat and Meet.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

Grades 5 through 8 are invited to register for the upcoming Middle School Retreat at Crestfield Camp on November 20-22. Registration forms can be found on the CE bulletin board located by the kitchen. If you have questions, please contact Marla at ma@bhccml.com. Registrations are due by November 1.

EAT AND MEET TIME CHANGE FOR NOVEMBER!

Grades 5 through 8 are invited to Eat and Meet **November 8 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.** We will begin our time together by cooking dinner for Family Promise. After sharing dinner and fellowship time with our Family Promise guests, we will have a short Bible study and games. Hope to see you all there!

FAMILY WORSHIP — NOVEMBER 29

ALL children preschool age and up will attend worship. The nursery will be open. Sunday Morning Wrap up will not be held after worship.

MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

Anne Smith — an@bhccml.com



Cherub Choir is back in full swing! We rehearse Sunday 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, and 12/6. Please walk your child to the choir room and sign them in. Rehearsal begins promptly at 10:45 a.m. and ends promptly at 11:15 a.m. Any child who does not have a parent present at 11:15 a.m. will be walked to Kids Care in the lounge.

The Cherub Choir will sing in the worship service on December 13th. That morning, they will meet in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to rehearse.

Looking forward to singing together!



WORSHIP PLANS

November 1: All Saints Day,
Communion
Revelation 21:1-6 / John 11:32-44

November 8: 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17/ Luke 12:6-7

November 15: 25th Sunday after Pentecost
1 Samuel 1:4-20/ Mark 13:1-8

November 22: Christ the King Sunday
Revelation 1:4b-8/ John 18:33-37

November 24: 49th Annual Interfaith
Thanksgiving Service, 7:30 p.m.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent
Jeremiah 33:15-16/ Luke 21:25-36

A NOTE FROM PASTOR SNYDER



As you enter the sanctuary, consider sitting quietly and listening to the “prelude.” As you wait for the service to begin, you may use this time for quiet reflection and prayer. In the same way, you may wish to remain in your pew and listen to the “postlude” at the conclusion of the service. Both pieces of music are specifically chosen for the theme of the day, beautifully performed by our Director of Music, and lend themselves to stillness and meditation.



COM-

MUNION

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

SERVERS

Dave & Nancy Green, Shelly Saba, Lynn Foltz

LECTORS

November 1: Mary Beth Waine
November 8: Lindsay Bruder
November 15: Steve Boisvert
November 22: Kent Jones
November 29: Josie Sheldon

USHER CAPTAINS:

November 1: Andy Druckenbrod
November 8, 15, 22: Dick Headley
November 29: Peter Morgan

GREETERS

November 1: LuAnn McNickle
November 8: Kent & Kelly Jones and children
Bill Cadwell
November 15: Jim & Bev Burke, Joan Bridges
November 22: Kiri & Jason Rising, Ellie & Nate Rising
November 29: Steve & Debbie Boisvert, Mary Good

ACOLYTES

November 1: Hayden Jones, Nate Rising, Leo Geis
November 8: Henry & Clara Druckenbrod, Sydney Saba
November 15: Amelia & Lydon Cameron, Jacob Geis
November 22: Graceann Foster, Avery Saba, Ellie Rising
November 29: Julian & Madelyn Salvante

COFFEE HOUR

November 1: Lease Family
November 8: Robosky Family
November 15: Mezyk / Casey Families
November 22: Philson Family
November 29: Westerhoff Family

FLOWER DEACONS

November 1: Josie Sheldon
November 8: Beth Robosky
November 15: Maggie DeLair
November 22: Anne Mitchell
November 29: Ruth Robbins

Scheduling Issues? Please contact:

Greeters, Communion Servers: Joan Zakor

Lectors: Joan Zakor

Acolytes: Jean Miewald

Coffee Hour: Pat Jacobs

Deacons: Darendra Lease

FleaMarket



Saturday, November 21

8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

Questions?

Contact Theresa Child

412-429-9519

treeoowon@yahoo.com

THE BHCC FLEA MARKET NEEDS YOU (AND YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, MAILPERSON AND ANYONE ELSE YOU CAN THINK OF)!!

Okay, that may be an exaggeration, but we really could use extra help for this year's Flea Market. Here's the scoop:

Present through Sunday, November 14 — COLLECTION

All items must be clean and in working condition. PLEASE do not include clothes. If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall.

Thursday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m.??? — UNPACKING BOXES

Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout! Typically, we're finished between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. We've got lots of stuff (so much so that pending Session approval we will have an entire extra room), so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all. Snacks will be provided but if you're planning to stay all day, you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

Saturday, November 21, 8:00am-3:00pm — SALE DAY

The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m., and we usually have shoppers arriving early. Because of the potential addition of the extra room, we'll need extra help throughout the day, but as always we'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

SOUP COOKS, BAKERS, (but no candlestick makers) NEED-

ED, TOO. We're looking for bakers to make items for the snack bar such as mini muffins, cookies, and brownies. Baked goods can be dropped off at the cart outside of the office on Friday, November 20, sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We're also looking for a gallon of each of the following soups — Chicken Noodle, Potato and Chili—containers can be provided. Soup may be dropped off in the office refrigerator also on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or brought to the kitchen by 9:30 a.m. on the day of the Flea Market.

TO BE ABLE TO KEEP TRACK OF HOW WE'RE DOING WITH FINDING EXTRA HELP, THERE WILL BE SIGN-UP SHEETS IN THE NARTHEX FOR "DAY OF THE SALE" HELP AS WELL AS FOR SOUP COOKS AND BAKERS (or just let Theresa know where and when you can help).

If you have any questions, contact Theresa Child at 412-429-9519 or at treeoowon@yahoo.com.

Thanks in advance for all your help to make this year's flea market a huge success.



Benjamin Thomas Robosky

Baptized 10-18-15

***Born on July 1, 2015
to Beth Burgess Robosky
& Jason Thomas Robosky***



Dorothy Philson

(Mother of Curt Philson)

November 7, 11:00 a.m.

Velma Noonan

November 21, 3:30 p.m.

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



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

Senior men's breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, November 4 at 8:00 a.m.** and will continue on *first Wednesdays* through April 2016. The group meets 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.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION Second Sunday Each Month

The next collection day for Wallace Food Pantry is **Sunday, November 8**. For the month of November, their greatest need is for dessert mixes that can be included in the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner bags provided to client families. Desserts that are complete in one box (such as brownies, lemon bars, pineapple upside-down cake, etc.) are preferred, but they welcome cake mixes, too, as long as icing is donated along with each mix. These and any donations of non-perishable foods, toiletry items, and paper products are welcome and are a great help in enabling them to serve their clients.



*The Deadline for the
December 2015 Newsletter is November 15.*

*All weekly bulletin submissions
are due on Tuesdays.*

SANCTUARY (CHANCEL) FLOWER REQUESTS



Beginning in January 2016, a price increase will take effect for the purchase of LIVE flowers. The current cost is \$35, and it will be increased to \$45. The additional \$10 is in line with what our supplier charges other churches in our community.

The minimum monetary donation remains at \$35.

The updated Flower Donation/Dedication Forms for the months of January through May of 2016 will be mailed before the end of November.

BOOKWORMS

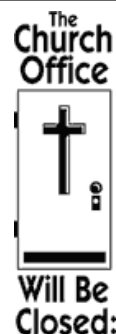


Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group. It meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

November 17—*The Trial of Fallen Angels*
by James Kimmel, Jr.

No meeting in December.

January 19—*The Warmth of Other Suns* (tentative)
by Isabel Wilkerson



VETERANS DAY
Wednesday, November 11

THANKSGIVING
Thursday/Friday
November 26 & 27

GREAT COFFEE, TEA, AND COCOA FOR A GREAT CAUSE



For over a decade, Bower Hill Community Church has served Fair Trade coffee and tea during Fellowship Time and other church events. Congregation members are also able to purchase coffee, tea, and cocoa. Our coffee, teas, and cocoa are all from Equal Exchange worker cooperatives. Through Equal Exchange, small-scale farmers not only receive a significantly larger share of the profits, but also have a say in how the organization is run and have the cooperative profits returned to their communities. Communities decide whether their share of the profits will help build a school, a community health center or another community need. PCUSA's Enough for Everyone Program has collaborated with Equal Exchange since 2001.

If you haven't been supporting this program, please consider purchasing some of our Fair Trade products. Coffee, both regular and decaf, is \$8.00 per 12-ounce bag or box of 12 single-serve cups. Teas are \$4.00 for a box of 20 tea bags and cocoa is \$6.00 per can. We have an honor system where you can pick up your coffee, tea and/or cocoa in the hallway on the way from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall and place your check or cash in the offering plate marked "Coffee/Tea/Cocoa." Fair Trade products are a great way to help small scale farmers around the world support their families with pride and dignity.



November 1

Kate Junker

November 3

Josie Sheldon
Kelly Harvey-Jones

November 6

Madelyn Salvante

November 9

Andy Hicks

November 10

Greta Snyder

November 13

Ellie Rising
Kiera Ryfun
Jason May

No-

November 13

Jim Corbett
Joann Vosburgh

November 14

Jim McAnulty, Jr.

November 20

Allison Schlesinger

November 21

Cassandra Gibbons
Melanie May

November 24

Allison Lease

November 25

Lisa Shwallon
Michelle Snyder

November 28

Chuck Laufer
Gloria Child

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.

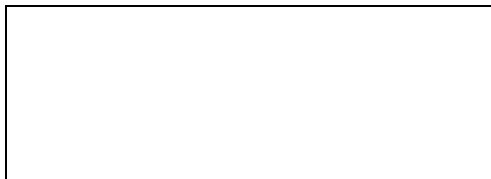
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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.BowerHillChurch.org



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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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

Company of Pastors
Rev. Tami Hooker
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes
Rev. John Yohe

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

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

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Church Secretary
office@bhccml.com

Jim Askins, Custodian
ff26emt@gmail.com

THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CARE LIST

Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085

Betty Eisenbeis, Sunrise of Upper St. Clair, 500 Village Dr., Rm. 325A, Pgh., PA 15241

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

Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

Pat Nuernberg, 619 Friendship Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION

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

ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE A RIDE?

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

