

## ~ On Human Freedom ~

*"It is merely for freedom that Christ has set us free...."*

~Galatians 5:1

Dear Members and Friends,

Have you ever heard this old Chinese parable? A farmer's workhorse ran away. The neighbors said, "What bad luck!" The farmer answered, "Perhaps." The next day, the workhorse came back, followed by a wild horse that it befriended. The farmer now owned two horses. His neighbors said, "What good luck!" The farmer answered, "Perhaps." The next day, the farmer's son tried to tame the new horse, but it kicked the boy and broke his leg. The neighbors said, "What bad luck!" The farmer answered, "Perhaps." The next day, imperial officers came through the countryside, seizing young men to serve as soldiers in the emperor's army. But a boy with a broken leg was no use to them. The neighbors said, "What good luck!" The farmer answered, "Perhaps."

This parable illustrates a truth: Unfortunate occurrences often have some benefits, just as good fortune usually comes at some cost. For example, our vegetable garden was a success this year, but that came at some cost in terms of time, and energy, and material investment. We took several great family trips this summer, but that too came at a cost, for it meant neglecting things at home. We added a nice deep porch to the side of our house. (I hope you'll come and see it at the Harvest Party on October 10.) I've always wanted a porch—not a deck or a patio, but a real porch, like you'd see in Mayberry, with a metal roof and banisters. I love it. But that came at a cost, too...believe me.

What I don't like about the Chinese parable is its passive characters. They're just waiting around for good or bad luck to befall them. If this were a modern American story, the emphasis would not be on "luck" but on each person's responsibility and freedom. The guy who lost the horse would have gone looking for it! He would have lassoed the wild horse all by himself! And his son would have enlisted in the army, broken leg and all, no need for a draft! Dwelling on human freedom reminds me of all that I chose not to do this summer: scraping and painting the trim around the windows; planting a small orchard; building a new fence to keep the neighbors' dogs away. Maybe next year.

One of the richest benefits of being human is our beautiful, terrible freedom. We may feel restricted by all the duties of grownup life, but consider the immeasurable, almost frightening degree of freedom we enjoy. We get to choose how and where to spend our time, how and whether to spend our money, what to think about, what to wear, whether to fill our days with silence or noise, and what kind. We get to decide whether we'll share ourselves, or hoard ourselves, or speak, or fall silent. Each day, we make choices out of that wonderful, risky freedom, a freedom that is at once our blessing and our curse.

The Epistle to the Galatians says it nicely, "It is merely for freedom that Christ has made us free." It's just one of the many glories of our humanity: we're free. Yes, time and chance happen to us all, as the old parable suggests. But our daily lot is this profound freedom to choose our actions. It's a limited freedom, but vast, daily, constant. We can choose to be miserly or generous. We can choose to be receptive or closed. We can choose to reach outward or inward. Each moment of every day is filled with freedoms that we never even consider. And so, let me ask this: Knowing that you are free; that you have more choices at your disposal than you've ever imagined; that your freedom in Christ is just one of the perks of being you...what do you plan to do with this moment that you've been given?

In Christ's Peace,

~Brian



**DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN ED**  
**Marla Kemmler**  
[ma@bhccml.com](mailto:ma@bhccml.com)

Sunday school kicks off on September 13. Preschool to 4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited after the Children's Sermon to attend Children's Worship. Children will meet their parents in Fellowship Hall after worship.

Grades 5 and up will attend worship at 9:30 a.m. with their families.

### **Sunday Morning Wrap-Up**

Beginning September 13 after worship and during coffee hour, grades five and up are invited for a short time (15-20 minutes) to room 203 to discuss various aspects of the worship service. This will be a time of reflection on the sermon and prayer, and a look at the scriptures and music used in the worship service. It will be led by a core group of the Youth Ministries Committee. Youth are welcome to bring their snacks during the short discussion.

### **NEW THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**

#### **Eat and Meet:**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening of each month, September—May**

The second Sunday evening of each month, 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a traditional youth group meeting. This meeting will include dinner, games and Bible study. The first Eat and Meet will take place September 13 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Parents please be sure at least one parent can attend the first gathering with your child.

#### **Day Camp Wrap Up**

The week of July 13-17, Bower Hill hosted Power-Up Day Camp. The week was filled with laughter, games, Bible study, freeze pops and SUNSHINE! We had 15 Junior Day campers and 18 regular campers for a grand total of 33 campers.

A huge thank you goes out to all the Junior Camp volunteers who made this week so delightful:

*Dawn Kane, Betsy Hohlfelder, Kiri Rising, Amy Grella, Cynthia Gissin, Ruth Robbins, Val Watterson, Anne Smith, Bethany Gibbs, Carolyn Westerhoff.*

An even bigger thank you goes out to Crestfield staff *Tylor, Jessica, Kayla, Anthony and Jack* who made the all-day camp so much fun the campers did not want the week to end.



### **ADULT EDUCATION** **Steve Boisvert, Committee Chair**

Adult Education has been an important and integral part of Bower Hill for many years. We traditionally take a break for the summer, when we begin planning for the coming year's programs. Summer is over and we're ready to go with what we believe will be classes that are informative, stimulating and uplifting. Adult Education will resume on Kickoff Sunday, September 13, with an inter-generational Capital Campaign celebration featuring Jim Guffey, Executive Director of SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministry) and some of his staff members who will share the many wonderful ways SHIM supports struggling families in the South Hills. BHCC has been a partner with SHIM for many years and it has been designated as one of the Capital Campaign four supported ministries. Also we are pleased that the Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will continue to lead one session a month on a spiritual or biblical topic. Below is our schedule for the month of September and first week of October. Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45 – 11:45 Sunday mornings following worship and a time for fellowship. 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 13:** Kickoff Sunday's Capital Campaign celebration with South Hills Interfaith Ministries.

**September 20:** The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will continue his series on spirituality and theology in our lives and the life of the church.

**September 27:** Elder Glenn Child and member Craig Grella will introduce BHCC's new website. Come and see what will be available to the public and to members.

### **October 5: Navigating Hospice Care: An Update from the Neighbors**

Barbara Ivanko, President and CEO of Family Hospice and Palliative Care, will share with us news of the organization's upcoming affiliation with UPMC and Presbyterian Senior Care. In addition, she will discuss when it may be time to raise the issue of hospice care with loved ones. Who initiates the conversation, and what resources are available to help?



**Anne Carper Smith**  
[an@bhccml.com](mailto:an@bhccml.com)

Thank you to all of the parents of our Jr. Daycampers for bringing them to Camp each day. All of the campers learned to sing *Big House*, *Father Abraham*, and *Jesus Loves*

*Me*. The K-1 campers even learned to play *Jesus Loves Me* on choir chimes! They all did a fantastic job, and I am so proud of each of them!

It's hard to believe, but it's almost time to kick off our fall music season! The Chancel (Adult) choir will rehearse weekly beginning on Thursday, September 3, at 7:15 p.m. in the Choir room. The first Sunday that they will sing in church will be September 13. The Bell Choir will rehearse weekly beginning on Thursday, September 10, at 6:15 p.m. in the Choir room. Cherub choir's first rehearsal will be on Sunday, November 1, from 10:50 a.m. until 11:10 a.m. in the Choir room. They will sing in church on December 6 and at our Christmas Concert on December 13.

**KICK-  
SUN-  
SEP-**

**OFF  
DAY:**



**TEMBER 13**  
**Please join us!**

Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.....8:30 a.m.

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

Sunday School, Preschool to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.....9:45 a.m.  
*(Rooms 203, 207, Chapel)*

Sunday Morning Wrap-up, 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up.....10:30 a.m.  
*(Room 203)*

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

Adult Education, Friendship Room (201)...10:45 a.m.  
*Kids care is provided in the nursery (Room 200) and the Lounge (Room 110) during the adult education hour.*

## **SEPTEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

### **COMMUNION SERVERS**

Dick Headley, Shelly Saba, Jason & Kiri Rising

### **LECTORS**

Sept. 13: Keith Mason  
 Sept. 20: Kirsten Bruder  
 Sept. 27: Mike Riemer

### **USHER CAPTAINS**

Sept. 6: Andy Druckenbrod  
 Sept. 13, 20, 27: Peter Morgan

### **GREETERS**

Sept. 6: Joan Zakor, Marian Brannan, Nina Helbling  
 Sept. 13: Jennifer & Robert Foster, Ed Hanke  
 Sept. 20: Marian Brannan, Carolyn Phillippe, Lucille Heckman  
 Sept. 27: Nick Gibbs, Bethany Gibbs, Patricia Hansen

### **ACOLYTES—TBD**

### **COFFEE HOUR**

Sept. 6: Sally Child  
 Sept. 13: Kickoff Breakfast/Brunch  
 Sept. 20: Gibbs Family  
 Sept. 27: McAnulty Family

### **FLOWER DEACONS**

Sept. 6: Anne Mitchell  
 Sept. 13: Ruth Robbins  
 Sept. 20: Nancy Geis  
 Sept. 27: Darendra Lease

## **SEPTEMBER WORSHIP PLANS**

**September 6:** 15th Sunday after Pentecost  
 (Communion delayed until Kickoff Sunday)  
 Isaiah 35:4-7; Mark 7:24-37

**September 13:** 16th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Kickoff Sunday, Communion (return to pew service)  
 Proverbs 1:20-33; Mark 8:27-38

**September 20:** 17th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Daniel Boisvert Baptism  
 Proverbs 31:10-31; Mark 9:30-37

**September 27:** 18th Sunday after Pentecost  
 Psalm 124; Mark 9:38-50

**SANDI'S GARDEN ISN'T READY TO CALL IT QUILTS!**

Sandi's Garden is still full of pepper plants, tomatoes, zucchini, Swiss chard and beans ready to burst forth and continue to supply SHIM's Food Pantry with bountiful fresh organic produce. The addition of 150 square feet to the original fenced-in garden has increased our contribution and has resulted in contributing even more fresh, organic produce to SHIM's food pantry. We are on track to easily exceed last year's harvest of 300 pounds. We hope to be able to keep the garden producing well into fall with lettuce, spinach and kale as the summer crops end their productive runs.

We still need volunteers to water the garden in September and October. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board on the way to Fellowship Hall. Please consider making this a family project. Many thanks to those who help make Sandi's Garden such a successful part of BHCC's continued commitment to serve others.

**PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE**

Thanks to everyone who has participated so far and had your pictures taken. We have taken pictures of about 80% of the families that we anticipate will be participating. For those of you who have not had your

picture taken or sent in, please consider doing so. It's such a help for all of us to put a name with a face. We will have the last photo sessions in September after Kickoff Sunday. Please look for the date in the bulletin and via a mass email.

If you cannot make a photo shoot session, please send us a recent picture of your family. We prefer them electronically but we can scan a hardcopy photo and give you back the original. Please send to Glenn Child – [gstchild@yahoo.com](mailto:gstchild@yahoo.com) or give Glenn a hardcopy at church or via normal mail.

*The church office will be closed  
on Monday, September 7,  
for the Labor Day holiday.*

**GREAT COFFEE, TEA AND COCOA  
FOR A GREAT CAUSE**

Summer is ending and a new set of routines begins. Why not make support of Equal Exchange farmers through the Presbyterian Coffee Project at BHCC part of your routine. You can enjoy our organic Fair Trade cocoa as well as our coffee (now in handy K-cups!) and organic teas.

As the weather cools off, warm yourself up in two ways: enjoy a wonderful hot beverage and support farmers around the world through fair compensation for their toils. BHCC, through the Presbyterian Coffee Project in cooperation with other denominations and the Equal Exchange Cooperative, supports small-scale farmers by eliminating the many layers that traditionally siphon off profits from the people who actually grow the cocoa, coffee and teas. In addition, profits are redirected back to the farmers' communities where they have a say in how the lives of their communities can best be improved. Through this cooperative model, communities have built schools and health centers. PCUSA's Enough for Everyone Program has collaborated with Equal Exchange since 2001.

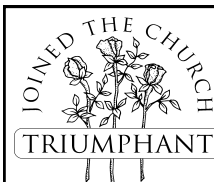
If you haven't been supporting this program, please consider purchasing some of our Fair Trade products. Regular and decaffeinated coffee is \$8.00 per 12-ounce bag or box of 12 single-serve cups. Teas are \$4.00 for a box of 20 tea bags and cocoa is \$6.00 per can. We have an honor system where you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



**Theodore Henry Grier**

***Born April 20, 2015 to Steven and  
Amber Grier***

***Baptized on August 23, 2015***



**IN MEMORIAM**

Evie Reece—July 24, 2015

Jeff Kerner—August 23, 2015

## 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](mailto:office@bhccml.com)



### **SENIOR MEN'S GROUP: FIRST TUESDAYS**

Senior men's breakfast will meet on **Tuesday, September 1**, and will continue to 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. Typically six to 10 men attend. Join us in the room to the left of the cashier.



### **FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION** **Second Sunday Each Month**

The next collection day for Wallace Food Pantry is Sunday, **September 13**. Currently, their greatest need is canned tuna and canned chicken, as well as tomato, vegetable, and beef-based soups. 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.

### **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.

**September 15—*When the Emperor Was Divine***  
by Julie Otsuka

**October 20—*The Trial of Fallen Angels***  
by James Kimmel, Jr.

### **THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**

The Pittsburgh Chapter of The Compassionate Friends (TCF) invites interested members of BHCC to participate in their first **butterfly release** taking place on the church lawn, **Sunday, September 27, 2:30 p.m.** Please visit [www.tcfpittsburgh.org](http://www.tcfpittsburgh.org) to register or contact the church office for a registration form.



### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Two oil paintings have been chosen to hang in the Friendship Room. The first called "Through Sunlit Leaves" is in memory of Verna and George Rose. The Roses' talented contributions to Bower Hill did much to beautify BHCC—especially the Friendship Room, Sanctuary and Deck the Halls. It is fitting that a painting is chosen as a memorial as George himself was an artist in every way.

The second painting "What A Great Day" is in honor of Peggy and Raymond Craig. Long-time faithful members of BHCC, both were active in many community activities and were examples of what community in our name implies. A portion of their memorial money was also used for organ repair earlier this year.

Both paintings are from the collection of fine art painted by Leo Goode and are landscapes of Western Pennsylvania. Leo is an accomplished artist, having received many accolades and awards, and is currently exhibiting his work in galleries in Annapolis and Gettysburg.

We are grateful to these former church members for their lives of service in the community and at Bower Hill Community Church.



### **WELCOME TAYLOR BARNER!**

Bower Hill Church has been invited to help train seminary students in "clinical pastoral education." This means providing a qualified seminary student with ten hours of pastoral visits per week. In September, we welcome Taylor Barner as our new Pastoral Assistant for Visitation. Taylor has completed his training in pastoral care and is a candidate for ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). His visits will supplement—not replace—visits from Pastor Snyder. Taylor may be calling on you to set up a time to visit, or you can request a visit through the church office.





### PARISH LIFE — SHERI GEIS, COMMITTEE CHAIR

#### **Kickoff Breakfast - September 13 at 8:30 a.m.**

Join us for Breakfast in Fellowship Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m., followed by worship, as we begin another fabulous Sunday School and Adult Education year! This year, there will be representatives from all of our committees, missions and special interest groups on hand to provide you with information about each group and to answer any questions.

During breakfast, please be sure to check out all of the displays to find out how you can become more involved in the service and mission opportunities available at Bower Hill. We look forward to seeing you there!

#### **Diaper Shower: Robosky Family**

Please join us during Coffee Hour on **Sunday, September 27**, for a Diaper Shower for Jason & Beth Robosky to welcome their son, **Benjamin Thomas Robosky**, born on July 1.

#### **Harvest Party - October 10 at 5:30 p.m.**

We hope you will join us for our annual Harvest Party which will be held at the Snyder's home this year! The main course and beverages will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be games and activities for children and adults! More details to come.

#### **Save the Date! November 7**

The **Murder Mystery Dinner** is back!  
You do not want to miss it!! More details to come!



- Sept. 1** — Dottie Carter  
**Sept. 3** — Davis Gray  
           Emily Lansberry  
**Sept. 5** — Maggie DeLair  
**Sept. 7** — Gus Watterson  
**Sept. 8** — Amelia Cameron  
           Lucy Kantner  
           Erin Hohlfelder  
**Sept. 10** — Julie Nydes  
**Sept. 12** — Doris Olinger  
**Sept. 14** — Paul Siefken  
**Sept. 15** — Dave Gallagher  
**Sept. 17** — Carol Knox

- Sept. 18** — Chloe Snyder  
**Sept. 19** — Jonathan May  
**Sept. 23** — Henry Druckenbrod  
**Sept. 24** — George Vosburgh  
**Sept. 25** — Amy Grella  
**Sept. 27** — Michael Waine  
**Sept. 28** — Gordon Mitchell  
**Sept. 29** — Ellena Gibbs  
           Ethel LaBarbera  
           Paul Kantner  
           Ruth Foltz  
           Tiffany Marcovsky

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.

### HAITI FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER



Back by popular demand is the **4th Annual Fashion Show / Luncheon to benefit the Haiti Clean Water Project.**

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, October 24**, at noon. The cost is \$25 per person, and ticket sales will begin on Sunday, Sep-

tember 20. Again, there will be reserved seating for tables of eight, so ask your friends to join you! Fashions will be represented from stores in the Galleria Mall, Mt. Lebanon.

Want to help? Consider donating a gift basket for the raffle. Models of all ages are needed! We always welcome day-of-event help (at the door, in the kitchen, raffle, clean-up). Please contact Mary Good or Kathy Philson.



## BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

70 Moffett Street  
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### OUR CHURCH STAFF

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Company of Pastors  
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Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes  
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### 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  
**Velma Noonan**, Sunrise of Upper St. Clair, 500 Village Dr., #123, Pittsburgh, PA 15241  
**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.