

~ Symbols to Live By ~

“Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary...”

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

~ Psalm 96:6,9

Dear Members and Friends,

People need symbols to live by. Wedding rings, crosses, diplomas, trophies... We need things we can touch and see to remind us of life's meaning and joys. At my mission station in Cameroon, long ago, we had a ten-acre lawn that spread luxuriantly between whitewashed buildings. Old-timers called our schoolyard “*le tapis vert*,” or “the green carpet.” Decorative lawns are rare in Africa, and people used to travel three miles from the nearest town just to walk on it and admire it. The lawn was planted back in a day when Presbyterian missions were funded by generous American industrialists. But by the 1990s, the money was long gone. It was now a huge financial burden to maintain a ten-acre lawn in a land of daily rainfall. Constant mowing seemed like a bad use of resources. We often lacked funds to pay our teachers. And so, the green carpet usually looked like a hayfield. One day an old alumnus of the school came to talk to me. He said, “Symbols give people hope. To you, the *tapis vert* is a wasteful holdover from the past. To us, it's a reminder that Africa, too, can have order and beauty. It's a symbol of Africa as it could be. Please...mow the lawn!” I can't say that I succeeded at keeping up with the lawn, but I did learn a valuable lesson: People live by symbols. We look to them for meaning.

Symbols foster a sense of identity, too. The Kaufmann's clock, the fountain at the Point, the Horne's Christmas tree, which still appears each December, though the department store is long gone... When we see any of these local cultural icons, like the Steelers' logo, our subconscious selves are reminded that we belong to something bigger. We belong to a longstanding community with traditions, and a past, and a future. We belong to a place with its success stories and its losses.

Down through the ages, the church has developed symbols, too. Some of these inspire; some provide comfort; and some nurture a sense of belonging. Presbyterians tend to use symbols sparingly; our faith ancestors felt that a love of symbols bordered on superstition. (Our church emerged in the late Middle Ages, when people attributed magical powers to holy relics and sacred objects.) But over the last century, a rich array of Christian symbols has returned to our churches. Today, most Presbyterian congregations use color to celebrate the seasons of the church year—purple for Lent, white for Easter, and so on. Most Presbyterian churches also use decorative cloths on the pulpit and communion table—called “paraments”—to display those seasonal colors and other symbols of the faith.

Shortly before her death, Joan Zakor became enthusiastic about my idea of introducing paraments to our worship space at Bower Hill Church. The Worship Committee proposed the idea to Session, who in turn asked elder Sarah Canon—a professional artist—to plan a full set of paraments for each season of the church year. We understood that any adornment in our sanctuary would need to be understated and consistent with the intentional simplicity of our décor. Sarah's lovely designs were approved by Session, and elder Deb Boisvert is carrying out much of the actual handicraft of it all. The paraments are created in loving memory of Joan, and they are entirely paid for by anonymous donors.

My favorite will appear in a few weeks. It's “The Tree of Life,” set on a green field, not unlike the *tapis vert*. Green is for “ordinary time,” the days between late May and late November—Pentecost and Advent. The color represents new life, spiritual growth, summer, harvest, plenty. Ordinary time is a season of stasis: those long, bright days through which each life sometimes drifts. The parament is embroidered with a simple tree with birds resting in its branches. The tree is nourished by deep roots, stretching down into clear blue waters below. Despite its simplicity, the biblical imagery is rich: Eden, the mustard seed, the birds of the air, the bearing of good fruit, baptism, the river of life, living waters.

What are some meaningful symbols in your life? How do you celebrate them? It is our hope that these new symbols of faith will enrich our worship and piety at Bower Hill Church.

In Christ's Peace,
Brian

SUMMER EDUCATION CLASS

Please plan to attend our summer Bible study each Sunday just after coffee hour. This discussion group gives an in-depth look at the Bible readings that were used earlier the same day in worship. We meet in the Friendship Room. The group is co-led by the Rev. Fred Leasure, a member of our Company of Pastors, and Peter Smith, the religion writer for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

LECTOR SEARCH

In mid-July, the process of selecting lectors for the fall season will begin.



Volunteer
Opportunities

There is a list of people who enjoy serving which makes this job quite easy. However, we are grateful for our new members and want to include any or all of them who would like to participate in the Sunday morning service.

Please call or email Pastor Snyder if you would like to serve or inquire. We would love to see some new faces interspersed with our faithful ones!

We are also recruiting children from grade 3 and higher to serve as Acolytes. Please call or email the church office if you are interested—it is a great way to become engaged and to participate in the service.

SCHEDULE UPDATES

Attention, parents of small children! One-room summer Sunday school was a nice idea, but it did not work out very well. The Lounge is not well-suited to our youngest children--preschool and under. For that reason, the **NURSERY REOPENED as of June 5** and will remain open for the rest of the summer.

- ◆ Children Kindergarten to completed second grade will be escorted to room 110 by two volunteers following the Children's Sermon.
- ◆ Parents should pick up their children from room 110 following worship.
- ◆ Completed third grade and above children are invited to remain in worship with their parents. Children's Bulletins will be available in the Narthex.

Family Worship Sundays

July 3 — July 4th Weekend
September 5 — Labor Day Weekend

Worship Plans

July☆☆☆

July 3: 7th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion
2 Kings 5:1-14; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10: 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 7:7-17; Luke 10:25-37

July 17: 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8:1-12; Luke 10:38-42

July 24: 10th Sunday after Pentecost
Genesis 18:20-32; Luke 11:1-13

July 31: 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Luke 12:13-21

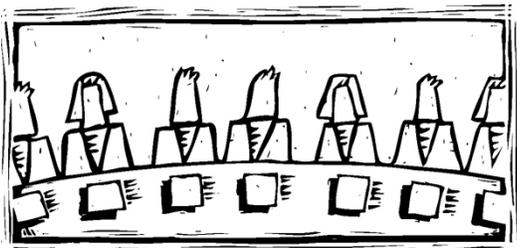
August

August 7: 12th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-48

August 14: 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 21: 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 12:18-29; Luke 10:13-17

August 28: 15th Sunday after Pentecost
Hebrews 13:1-8; Luke 14:1, 7-14



SESSION

Session Responsibilities (2016-2017)

Clerk of Session

Bill Cadwell

Church Treasurer

Gordon Mitchell

Commissioner to Presbytery

Cathy Morgan

Administration and Personnel

Session Chair: Rick Jacobs
Session Member: Dick Headley

Adult Education

Session Chair: Cathy Morgan
Session Member: Steve Boisvert

Building and Grounds

Session Chair: Gary Gorski
Session Member: Cathy Morgan

Capital Campaign

Session Chair: Jason Rising
Session Member: Gordon Mitchell

Christian Education

Off-Session Chair: (open)
Session Member: Ben Boisvert

Communication

Session Chair: Jim Cannon
Session Member: Theresa Child

Finance and Stewardship

Session Chair: Mike Riemer
Session Member: Jason Rising

Mission and Outreach

Session Chair: Pat Jacobs
Session Member: Steve Boisvert

Nominating

Session Chair: Theresa Child
Session Member: Joan Bridges

Parish Life

Session Chair: Sheri Geis
Session Member: Joan Bridges

Worship and Music

Session Chair: Andy Druckenbrod
Session Member: Sarah Cannon

Youth Ministries

Session Chair: Alan Hohlfelder
Session Member: Kent Jones

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATES

New Member Class Photos

The Communication Committee wants to get new members' pictures out to the congregation in a timely manner and into the photo directory while minimizing the cost. Therefore, we publish a black and white version on regular stock paper shortly after the pictures are taken that will be delivered via the Newsletter. In addition, the pictures will be used on the bulletin boards by the Parish Life Committee. A full color addendum page on glossy paper will be sent out with the stewardship bags that will include all of the member classes since the last addendum was sent. We believe this will minimize costs and get the pictures of new members distributed as quickly as possible. So, for our newest member class, the pictures are included as a separate page in this newsletter.

This is a reminder that the Members section of our website is now available. This section contains lists of baptisms, births, deaths, marriages, new members and prayer concerns. Also included are the office calendar (with all meetings), worship volunteer calendar, session manual and the photo directory. The photo directory is broken down by the first letter of each member's last name.

If you would like to have access to the Members section, please send an email to Glenn Child at gstchild@yahoo.com. Glenn will set up a user account, which will send you an email. In the email, please click on the link to set your password. You will then have access to this section.

When you first visit the BHCC site, you will not be shown the Members section. To see it, you will need to click on login in the main menu and supply your password. The Members section will then show up as a main menu item. Please contact Glenn with any questions or corrections.



NEWS FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE



We are thrilled to share that Bower Hill will host a concert series in the upcoming program year. These concerts will be held on Sundays following worship and a potluck luncheon. They are free and open to the public—good will donations are welcomed. Colorful flyers announcing the dates are posted around the church. Concerts confirmed at this time are as follows:

September 25

2016 Allegheny Brass Band (alleghenybrassband.com)

December 18

Yinzer Singers present a sing-a-long Messiah (yinzersingers.com)

April 30, 2017

Community Band South (cbs.pghfree.net)

June 4, 2017

Pittsburgh Recorder Society
(andrew.cmu.edu/user/lukas/pcars/Welcome.html)

Interested in helping with the concerts? Email Anne Smith at an@bhccml.com. Have a great summer!

SANDI'S GARDEN FOR 2016 IS IN FULL SWING and Looking for Volunteers to Keep Her Watered

Sandi's Garden is already providing fresh organic produce to SHIM's Food Pantry clients. BHCC has made two deliveries of swiss chard, the first harvests of all of SHIM's main and community gardens. In the coming weeks and months we will be delivering swiss chard, beans, hot and sweet peppers, and zucchini and squash.



You don't have to be a master gardener to help make this the most successful year yet for Sandi's Garden. Right now we need volunteers to sign up for a week of watering. A few hours a week will make a world of difference. The schedule for volunteers is on the first bulletin board on the way from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall. Directions for watering are next to the sign-up sheet. Please volunteer to sign up for a week, take a watering sheet with you, and be a valuable part of a mission project that shares our blessings with clients who struggle to provide their families with healthy meals in this land of plenty.

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



WESTERN PA DIAPER BANK

Our upcoming collection dates for disposable diapers are **Sundays, July 17 and August 21**. Sizes 4, 5 and 6 are most in need for babies.

XL diapers are needed for the geriatric population.

The collection container is the Pack'N Play, which is located in the hallway directly outside of the Nursery. Your diaper donations each month are appreciated!

Monetary donations are also accepted and are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank and mail it to **Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank, 2546 Centre Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15219**. Our church should be written on the Memo line of your check.

SPECIAL NOTE: National legislation has been proposed to assist families that need diapers. More information is available via this link: <https://campaignforchildren.org/resources/letters-correspondence/300-organizations-support-the-hygiene-assistance-for-families-of-infants-and-toddlers-act/>. You may want to write a letter of support to your U.S. Congressman.

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



Upcoming collection dates for Wallace Food Pantry are **July 10 and August 14**. Currently, the greatest needs are for canned tuna or chicken, canned soups, and boxed cereal. A special, ongoing need is for adult men's protective undergarments, size medium. Of

course, any donations of non-perishable food items, toiletry items, and paper products are welcome and are a great help in enabling the food pantry to serve its clients.

Would you like to purchase **SANCTUARY FLOWERS** or



Sanctuary Flowers

make a donation to the charity of your choice in memory or honor of a loved one? At this time, OPEN dates are **Sundays, September 4 and 25**, along with **October 23**. Additional dates will be announced as they become available. Please call or email the office to request information.



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

The senior men's breakfast group will meet on **July 5 and August 2**, and will continue to meet on *first Tuesdays* through October. The meeting time is **8:00 a.m.**, and the location is the Kings Restaurant on Route 50 near the end of Greentree Road, in Scott. The group meets in the room to the left of the cashier, and no reservation is necessary. Usually 6-10 church members attend and are welcome to an unstructured discussion of any topic that comes to mind. Join us!

BOOKWORMS

Bookworms is our ladies' book discussion group, which meets at 7:30 p.m. in Room 103 for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title. You are reminded that for the upcoming months, the group will meet on the **fourth Tuesday**. Everyone is welcome to read the book for the month and join the discussion.

July 26

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande

August 23

Breakfast with Buddha by Roland Merulle



COFFEE, CAKE & CONVERSATION will meet in Fellowship Hall on the following **Tuesdays:**

July 26 and August 23

This group provides an opportunity to extend our fellowship time from fifteen minutes on Sunday mornings to two hours once a month. Coffee and cake will be provided: the conversation is up to you! Contact Bill Cadwell for more information.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOTICE

The deadline for the September Kick-Off edition of the newsletter is August 15. Newsletter volunteers will meet August 25. There will be no mailing to fold in July. Please call the office with any questions or concerns.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - JULY

COMMUNION SERVERS

Rick & Pat Jacobs, Margaret Zabo, Jason Robosky

USHER CAPTAINS

July 3: Peter Morgan
July 10: Mike Riemer
July 17, 24: Peter Morgan
July 31: Andy Druckenbrod

GREETERS

July 3: Matt & Lauren Kocher
July 10: Joann & Leo Goode, Kara Pepicelli
July 17: Mary Beth Waine, Doris Olinger
July 24: Ben & Carolyn Boisvert
July 31: Rob & Kristen Mackey

COFFEE HOUR

July 3: Morgan Family
July 10: Belardi Family
July 17: Grella Family
July 24: Jacobs Family
July 31: Boisvert Family

FLOWER DEACONS

July 3: Josie Sheldon
July 10: Beth Robosky
July 17: Mary Good
July 24: Mary Gorski
July 31: Anne Mitchell

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS - AUGUST

COMMUNION SERVERS

Andy Druckenbrod, Allison Schlesinger
Sally Child, Jason Robosky

USHER CAPTAIN

Mike Riemer

GREETERS

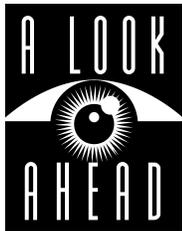
August 7: Jennifer & Robert Foster
August 14: Ben & Deb Carter and Family
August 21: Steve & Amber Grier
August 28: Mary Good, Lynne Wohleber

COFFEE HOUR

August 7: Mackey Family
August 14: Saba Family
August 21: Druckenbrod/Schlesinger Family
August 28: Mitchell Family

FLOWER DEACONS

August 7: Ruth Robbins
August 14: Phyllis Madden
August 21: Cynthia Gissin
August 28: Nancy Green



July 11—15
“FEARLESS FAITH” Day Camp

July 24—31
Family Promise at BHCC

Sunday, September 11
Kickoff Sunday

September 25 to October 2
Family Promise at BHCC

September 25
2016 Allegheny Brass Band
(alleghenybrassband.com)



ALL CHURCH
CANOE TRIP
Saturday, July 30

Families and singles welcome!!

Canoes — for families of 2 to 4 persons: \$43

Kayaks — for people paddling solo: \$26

Meet at the church at 8:15 a.m. for carpool to West Newton.

Bring a picnic lunch, sun protection, and drinking water. Spend two hours paddling the Youghiogheny; be back to the church before 2:00 p.m.

Please sign up via the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Friendship Room.



THE BIRTHDAY BLESSING:

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

July 01: Benjamin Robosky, Katie Krol
Mary Laufer, D.J. Geis

July 02: Craig Frock

July 04: Glenn Child, Jennifer Gardner

July 05: Henry Carter, Kristen Mackey

July 12: Holly Smith

July 13: Carolyn Westerhoff, Debbie Seifert

July 14: Glenna Creaves Karkaria

July 16: Alison & Andrew Shwallon
Ella Siefken

July 18: Ray Henney, III

July 19: Adeline Gray, Amanda Vosburgh
Ruby Siefken

July 20: Linda Johnson, Matthew Linaburg
Kristoffer Lansbery

July 22: Mandy Belardi

July 24: Phyllis Yohe, Dave May
Wyatt Gray

July 27: Preston Harness

July 29: Matthew Dunfee
Dawn Kane
Ruth Robbins
Elaine Mackey
Jennifer Foster

July 30: Jim Burke, Bob Bridges

Aug. 03: Emmalyn Gray

Aug. 04: JoAnn Goode
Mary Beth Waine

Aug. 07: Maya Williams
Peter Smith

Aug. 10: Amanda Gray

Aug. 13: Amber Grier

Aug. 14: Nancy Green
Craig Grella
Sage Williams

Aug. 15: Noelle Grella

Aug. 16: Monette Shuttleworth

Aug. 18: Emma Hicks

Aug. 21: Bill Cadwell

Aug. 23: Ella Belardi, Bob Ferrero
Joan Bridges

Aug. 28: Michela Robbins

Aug. 30: Andrew Smith

Aug. 31: Jean Miewald
Catherine Morgan

Have we missed YOUR birthday?

If your name is not listed, it is because the church office does not have your information. Please call the secretary at 412-561-4114 with updated information.

Family Promise



The church is host to Family Promise during the weeks of July 24-31 and September 25—October 2.

Scheduling volunteers begins soon.

Many volunteers are needed to prepare meals, serve as evening and overnight hosts, drive, coordinate activities, purchase and organize supplies, and assist in many other ways. Although most hosts are adults, youth can participate as well by arranging activities for young children and socializing with older kids. Volunteering together as a family is a great way to teach your own children generosity of spirit.

To volunteer or to learn more, contact our **Family Promise Coordinator, Jean Miewald.**
Email: MiewaldJM@upmc.edu

PRODUCE TO PEOPLE

Produce to People is a joint venture of the Pittsburgh Presbytery and Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, distributing healthy food and fresh produce to those individuals and families at risk in our area. Bower Hill will assist with this program on **Saturday, July 16.**

We will meet on the North Side at the Martin Luther King, Jr. School at **8:30 a.m.** and should be finished by 12:30 p.m. . Physical strength is not necessary. If you are interested, please contact Keith Mason at 412-965-6592. A sign-up sheet will be on the Bulletin Board near the Friendship Room.

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



**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. Tami Hooker
Rev. Dr. Fred Leasure
Rev. Dr. Betty Sykes
Rev. John Yohe

TBD
Director of Christian Education
and Youth Programs

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

Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
office@bhccml.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

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

Alma Johnson, 13 Charles Street, Dravosburg, PA 15034

Pat Nuernberg, Friendship Village Health Center, 1290 Boyce Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SUNDAY TRANSPORTATION

Need a ride to worship? The deacons would like to provide a ride to worship 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.

