

~THANKSGIVING~

*“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

~1Thessalonians 5:16-18

Members and Friends,

In this season of Thanksgiving, it's become my tradition to share fables or folktales about gratitude. Here's an excerpt from *The Wise Fool: Fables from the Islamic World*, by Shahurkh Husain:

“Treading on God's Gifts”*

'How beautiful the rain looks,' thought the Mulla, watching from his window. 'It washes everything clean and makes the flowers and trees grow. It is truly one of the most beautiful signs of God's grace.'

Just then, the peaceful view of the square with the rain pelting down on the flowers and trees was interrupted by a figure dashing through it. It was Enver, the Mulla's neighbor from two doors down. The Mulla stood up and leaned forward a little. 'Enver! Enver, my friend! Why are you running?' he called as Enver got nearer. 'To get out of the rain, of course,' yelled Enver without stopping, swerving sharply towards his house. 'What a terrible, terrible shame!' Mulla Nasruddin called back. 'Rain is one of God's great gifts. I can't believe that people try to run away from it. No wonder God asks in the holy book: How many of my gifts will you deny?' The Mulla noticed with satisfaction that Enver was slowing down even though the rain was getting heavier. 'A job well done,' he thought. 'I have managed to do some good.' And he settled back to watch the rain, until he became so mesmerized by the falling drops that he began to doze.

'Khoja!' called his friend Jamal, knocking at the window. 'The rain has let up for a bit. Do you fancy some coffee at Aydin's shop? I hear he has some fresh baklava just in.' The Mulla was never one to turn down fresh baklava; and besides, Aydin served excellent coffee with just the right amount of cardamom. He heaved himself up and joined Jamal. The baklava was as fresh and crisp as he had hoped, and the coffee as rich. When he had finished, the Mulla looked out at the sky and saw that it was beginning to cloud over again. 'I think I'll get back home,' he said. 'It looks as if there's more rain coming.' A bank of clouds had built up in the sky and, just as he stepped into the square, the first drops splattered the Mulla's face and shoulders. Quick as a lightning flash, he grabbed the folds of his trousers and sprinted across the square.

'Are you running away from the rain, Khoja?' called Enver's startled voice from his window. 'What does it look like to you?' replied the Mulla, crustily. 'I thought you said it was shameful to deny God's greatest gifts?' And the Mulla replied, 'So it is. So it is, my friend. Now don't distract me — I mustn't tread on a single one of God's precious gift of raindrops.'

A joyful and grateful Thanksgiving season to you!

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



The Deadline for the December 2014 Newsletter is November 15.

All weekly bulletin submissions are due on Tuesdays.

EARTH DAY

Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon or for whatever time you can be there. We will be doing leaf raking and general clean-up of the lawn and gardens. Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Good or Tim Lease.



SENIOR MEN'S GROUP: WEDNESDAYS

Senior men's breakfast will meet on Wednesday, November 5. The group will meet on *first Wednesdays* through April 2015. 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. We meet in the room to the left of the cashier. Typically six to 10 men attend. Join us.

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.

November 18: *Mrs. Kennedy and Me* by Clint Hill

No Meeting in December!

January 20: *Transatlantic* by Colum McCann

February 17: *All the Light We Can Not See* by Anthony Doerr



PROGRESSIVE DINNER: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH

Mark your calendars. The progressive dinner is back! You will not want to miss out on what is sure to be a fun evening. We will meet at the home of one of our

members to enjoy cocktails and appetizers, move on to another



home for dinner and then meet up at a third home for dessert. If you are interested in being one of our hosts, or are unable to host but are willing to team up with a host or lend a hand, please contact Michelle Snyder or Sheri Geis. Please also be sure to sign up on the bulletin

board if you plan to attend, so that our hosts can plan for the appropriate number of guests. More details will be provided as we finalize our hosts.

YOGA OFFERED FOR ALL ABILITY LEVELS

All-Levels Yoga is offered in the Lounge on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a yoga mat and a beach towel. The cost is \$8. Proceeds from the class will be donated back to the church. For additional information, please contact Carla at 704-258-4900 or follow on Facebook at "Carla Ann Drummond Yoga."

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).



PASTOR'S STUDY LEAVE

Our pastor will be away on study leave from Sunday, November 9, until Monday, November 17. He has been selected to participate in a "CREDO Event," a gathering of clergy hosted by the Presbyterian Church (USA). The event will take place at Mo-Ranch, near San Marcos, Texas, and it will instruct ministers in such topics as spiritual self-care, personal and church finances, and administration. In Pastor Snyder's absence, two "Ruling Elders," currently on Session, will be preaching. For pastoral care concerns during this time, please contact Rev. John Yohe at (412) 279-7795.



SANDI'S GARDEN

Summer is, by now, a fading memory and Sandi's Garden has, by the time you read this, probably succumbed to a hard frost and is taking a well-deserved rest. We did not plant tomatoes this year, leaving that crop to our larger partners in SHIM's Boaz Fields project. Instead we planted Swiss chard, beans, hot and sweet peppers, a few zucchini plants and two dozen Thai basil plants. With the exception of zucchini, all of our crops were lighter than tomatoes. In spite of that, we still reached 300 pounds of organic produce for SHIM's Food Pantry. That translates to over 1½ pounds of produce per square foot!

None of this could have been possible without the help of many people. Our children got things started this winter when they planted Swiss chard and pepper seeds for our indoor greenhouse. This spring they transplanted the seedlings into the garden and planted bush and pole beans. In August they learned a new word, "gleaning," as they made sure not one bean escaped their eagle eyes when they removed the first bean crop; they planted a second crop which produced into October. Congregation members also donated seedlings and kept the garden going by volunteering to water the garden for a week from our rain barrel.

SHIM's Boaz Fields project helps its food pantry provide food insecure families with one of the most expensive items in a food budget, fresh, organic produce. BHCC once again, from the youngest on up, was an important part of this ministry to our brothers and sisters in the South Hills who depend on it to feed their families. Thank you to all who, in many ways, answered the call to serve others.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

November 01 Kate Junker

November 03 Bill Spangenberg
Josie Sheldon

November 04 Andy Hicks

November 06 Madelyn Salvante

November 10 Greta Snyder

November 13 Jim Corbett
Joann Vosburgh

November 14 Jim McAnulty, Jr.

November 18 Adam Kerner

November 20 Allison Schliesinger

November 21 Melanie May
Cassandra Gibbons

November 22 Ursula Pappas
Evan Delestienne

November 24 Allison Lease

November 25 Michelle Snyder
Lisa Shwallon

November 27 Caroline Post

Velma Noonan

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.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education meets from 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. Sunday mornings after worship and a time for fellowship. If you are a regular attendee, you've come to expect a wide variety of stimulating ideas and lively conversations that help us explore what it means to be a people of faith who believe we are called to be involved in this ever-challenging world. We believe that if you've never attended a class and give us a try, you'll be glad you did. Elder Steve Boisvert is the Chair of Adult Education.

November 2: Dr. Wayne Walters, Principal at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 and newly appointed Assistant Superintendent of Pittsburgh Public Schools, will discuss how his school has become an urban success story in East Liberty.

November 9: BHCC member Andy Druckenbrod will present a program on how music enhances spirituality.

November 16: To Be Determined

November 23: The Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder will talk about Process Theology.

November 30: "Deck the Halls" - No Adult Education



**Preston Joseph Harness, baptized
10-19-14**

**Born on July 27, 2014,
to Elizabeth Jenny Harness
& Joseph M. Magielski, Jr.**

NOVEMBER WORSHIP PLANS

November 2: All Saints Sunday, Communion
Revelation 7:9-17; Matthew 5:1-12
"The Company of the Blessed"

November 9: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 25:1-13, I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Elder Keith Mason is preaching

**November 16: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost,
Thanksgiving Sunday**
Matthew 25:14-23, Matthew 25:24-30
Our resident seminarian,
Elder Troy Bailey, is preaching.

November 23: Christ the King Sunday
Matthew 25:31-46; Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
"Judging Between the Sheep"

November 30: 1st Sunday of Advent
Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 64:1-9
"Longing"

NOVEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**COMMUNION SERVERS**

DJ Geis, Nancy Geis, Theresa Child, Glenn Child

COFFEE HOUR

November 2	Burke Family
November 9	Bruder Family
November 16	Salvante Family
November 23	Philson Family
November 30	Gibbs Family

LECTOR

November 2	Michelle Snyder
November 9	Josie Sheldon
November 16	Joan Zakor
November 23	DJ Geis
November 30	Sydney Saba

USHER CAPTAIN: Dick Headley

GREETERS

November 2	George Freas, Christine Henney, Nina Helbling
November 9	Sheri Geis, Allison Schlesinger, Nick Gibbs
November 16	DJ Geis, Craig Grella
November 23	Amanda Gray, Brad Gray, Cynthia Gissin
November 30	Amy Grella, Bethany Gibbs, Doris Olinger



Marla Kemmler
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

November is here and the hustle and bustle of the holidays is almost upon us! Advent will be here before you know it! Bower Hill has been asked to host a Children's Worship Workshop for other local churches on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

The workshop will be an informal time to gather with other churches who use the Children's Worship in their churches to learn more about the method and share creative ideas.

Reverend Sharon Stewart will be leading the workshop. Pastor Sharon was trained by Sonja Stewart, the author of the book *Young Children and Worship*. We are very blessed to have her in the Pittsburgh area.

There is no cost to attend the workshop. Anyone who is interested in learning more about Children's Worship is encouraged to attend.

The Sunday School schedule
for November and December is as follows:

November 2 Normal Sunday school classes

November 9 Normal Sunday School classes

November 16 Normal Sunday School class

November 23 Normal Sunday school class

November 30 (Thanksgiving Weekend and first week of Advent) Preschool- 4th grade Normal Sunday school class. Grades 5th and 6th and Adult Education WILL NOT have class so they can help Deck the Halls for Christmas.

December 7 Normal Sunday School class
(Second Sunday in Advent)

December 14 Normal Sunday School class
(Third Sunday in Advent)

December 21 Normal Sunday School class
(Fourth Sunday in Advent)

December 28 will be the 2nd annual PJ Party in the Lounge. All children are invited to come to church in their PJs to have donuts and watch movies together.

January 4th will be Family Worship. We will all worship together. The nursery will be open but all other children will stay in worship with their parents.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

*See below for the Fall Sunday School Schedule.
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.*

Preschool-2nd grade
will meet in the Chapel and Room 207.

3rd and 4th Grade will meet in Room 203.

5th grade and up will remain in worship. This group will meet after worship in the Chapel.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR SECOND-HOUR CHILD CARE

Children attending Kid's Care childcare in Room 110 during the Adult Education hour must be dropped off and picked up by an adult responsible for their care. An adult's signature is required for admittance to Kid's Care. Unattended children will not be admitted.

GREAT COFFEE (AND TEA!) FOR A GREAT CAUSE

For over a decade Bower Hill Community Church has served Fair Trade coffee and tea during Fellowship Time and church events. Congregation members are also able to purchase this coffee and tea. Beginning November 2, Fair Trade coffee and tea will be sold the first Sunday of each month during Fellowship Time. Jim McNulty will have regular and decaf coffee in both 12 ounce bags of ground drip and 12 single serve cups, as well as an assortment of 20 tea bag boxes with and without caffeine.

Our coffee and teas 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 where the cooperative profits are used. 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 coffee and tea. 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. If you miss Jim on the first Sunday of the month, we also have an honor system where you can pick up your coffee and/or tea in Room 202 on the way from the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall and place your check or cash in the offering plate marked "Coffee/ Tea." Fair Trade coffee and tea is a great way to help small scale farmers around the world support their families with pride and dignity.

FLEA MARKET HELPERS NEEDED

The fall flea market will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, and there will be lots of opportunities to help out with the setup of the flea market as well as on the day of the sale. Please note that for the snack bar, in addition to bakers, we're also looking some people to make soup.

DONATIONS**Now until Sunday, November 16th: 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.

SNACK BAR DONATION NEEDED: BAKED GOODS AND SOUP

We need bakers to make items for the snack bar. We're looking for mini muffins, cookies, and brownies. Please sign up in the Narthex or let Theresa know what you are making. Baked goods to the CART OUTSIDE THE OFFICE Friday, November 21st, between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

We're also looking for some people to make soups for the snack bar—we'd like to have one gallon of chicken noodle, one gallon of cream of potato and one gallon of chili. Please sign up in the Narthex or let Theresa know which soup you can make. Soups can be dropped off the morning of the flea market by 10:00 a.m. (they don't necessarily have to be hot) or other arrangements can be made with Theresa. Theresa can also provide gallon containers for transport.

FLEA MARKET STAFF NEEDED**Sunday, November 9th and Sunday, November 16th: Final Pricing Days**

Stop by the loft after coffee hour or after adult ed. Snacks will be provided.

Thursday November 20th 9:00 a.m.-???: Unpacking the Boxes

Help us unpack for an hour or two or stay all day and really get a workout; typically we're done around 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. We've got lots of stuff, so we'll need lots of help to unpack it all. Snacks will be provided, but if you're planning on staying all day, you may want to bring a bagged lunch.

Saturday November 22nd 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.: Sale Day

The Flea Market opens at 8:30 a.m. and we usually have shoppers arriving early. We'll need the most help the first two or three hours.

**Flea Market**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22RD

FROM 8:30 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT THERESA CHILD

412-429-9519

TREETOOWON@YAHOO.COM.

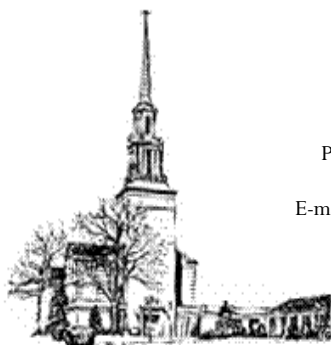
DON'T FORGET!

FLEA MARKET HELPERS GET FIRST CRACK AT ALL MERCHANDISE!

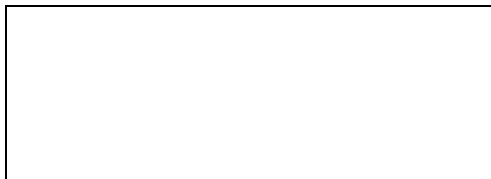
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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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

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
Betty Eisenbeis, 730 Bower Hill Road, Apt. 219, Pittsburgh, PA 15243
Ethel La Barbera, 50 Vanadium Road, #130, Bridgeville, PA 15017
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.