

~ The Fullness of Time ~

“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman.”

~Galatians 4:4

Members and Friends

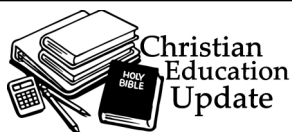
For nearly half my life, I've been returning to a particular novel. I reread it about every four years, and each time, it speaks to me in new ways. It's a lovely book, beautifully written with the most poetic prose of any novel I know. It's got little passing phrases that can break the heart with their wisdom and beauty. Its mood is sober but occasionally playful. It's got no storyline to speak of, for the plot is not the point (a fact that lends itself to rereading). All the characters are painfully self-absorbed, every last one of them. How could such narcissists expect a happy ending? But it's still my favorite novel because of the music of its language, its vivid word pictures, its pithy observations, and its patient meandering down the years of one family's life. When I was home from Africa on furlough in 1997, I loaded up on fiction at a Barnes & Noble in Ohio, and I've been carrying this book around ever since. It's one of the few personal belongings I lugged back to the US with me when I repatriated. Its pages are yellowed with age, the cover faded, and on the inside of the back cover, long years ago, I wrote out my monthly budget in spidery French and in Central African Frans. (Apparently, though I earned \$300 per month, I lived quite well on \$135!) Interestingly, as soon as I got back to the US, the Presbyterian Church (USA) invited me to take a job at Stony Point Conference Center, in the very spot where the book's fictional family lived: the Hudson River Valley in Rockland County, New York. Once at a library sale in Kennebunkport, Maine, I saw a first edition of this book for \$10, and I've been kicking myself for years that I didn't buy it. (What book is it, you say?)

Isn't it strange that the same old story can mean so many different things to the same old person down through the years? At each different phase of my life, I find truths there that I didn't see before. How is it that we can revisit again and again the same painting, the same sculpture, the same piece of music performed by the selfsame musicians, the same old story, and each time we do, they manage to shed new light into our lives, revealing new beauties, opening up new possibilities? Surely it's because each time we come to them, we bring a whole new set of cares and joys, fears and successes. Each time we come to them, we bring a different set of experiences and recent conversations echoing in our heads.

Time gives its slow gifts, doesn't it? As the Advent and Christmas seasons open upon us, and as we revisit again the stories of waiting and of peace at the heart of our faith, you'll bring a whole different self to those old stories. How might the Advent message of anticipation and hope speak to you anew in the place where you find yourself today? How might the Christmas message of joy ring a new echo in the life that you bring to it now? A part of me likes to believe that all of time happens at once, but that we can only experience it in linear increments. (If you've been to any of the four November memorial services at Bower Hill, you know I'm puzzling over this mystery of time.) How many times is Christ born into our lives and our world? Is the fullness of time again today?

Christ's Peace to You,

~Brian



DIRECTOR
Marla Kemmler
ma@bhccml.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your summer calendars from July 11-15 for Bower Hill Day Camp 2016!

YES! You read that correctly! We are already planning our summer programming calendar. Last year's Day Camp was so much fun that we couldn't wait to share the good news with our families! Once again, Bower Hill will partner with Crestfield Camp and Conference Center to host an ALL DAY Camp for completed grades 1 through 6.

Watch for details in the February newsletter.

EAT AND MEET

Grades 5 through 8 are invited to Eat and Meet on **December 13** from **6:00—8:00 p.m.** Our time together will begin by sharing dinner with the Mission Committee. Following dinner, we will make fleece blankets for Family Promise.

DECEMBER 20—CAROLING

ALL ages are invited following Coffee Hour to travel to Asbury, where we will spread Christmas cheer with caroling, Christmas cards and cookies. Plan to gather in the choir room at 11:00 a.m., leave the church for Asbury at 11:15 a.m., and carol from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

JANUARY 3—FAMILY WORSHIP

All children will remain in worship with their parents. The Nursery will be open.

JANUARY 10

Normal Sunday school schedule resumes.

****On Sundays where there is NO Sunday school, the nursery will be open.****



COMMITTEE CHAIR

Steve Boisvert
sdboisvert@verizon.net

Our schedule for the month of December and the first week of January is shown below. Adult Education meets in the Friendship Room from 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings following worship and fellowship time. If you have 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.

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.

Dec. 13 **Cathy Battle, Executive Director of the Western PA Diaper Bank**, will share the challenges many families face in keeping their children in diapers. In conjunction with this class, we will hold a congregational diaper drive.

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

Dec. 27 Christmas - No Adult Ed

Jan. 3: De-deck the Halls - No Adult Ed

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.



Sunday School will enjoy its third annual **Sunday-after-Christmas Pajama Party!**

All Sunday school classes will participate on **Sunday, December 27 from 9:30-10:30 a.m.** in the Lounge (room 110). There will be no children's sermon. Please report directly to the Lounge at the beginning of worship.

Wear your PJ's and bring a pillow and blanket. We will watch a fun holiday DVD. Donut holes, juice, and milk will be provided.



Anne Carper Smith
an@bhccml.com

Glad

Tidings of Joy!

Thank you for bringing your children to participate in Cherub Choir rehearsals. We have had over 20 kids so far! **The children will share their music with the congregation on December 13.** Please plan to be in the choir room with your child (ren) at 9:00 a.m.

Do you play an instrument? Sing? We are looking for musicians to help make our Christmas Eve service a joyful, memorable worship experience for all. Please let Anne know if you would like to participate.

A special thank you to all those who continue to make the music program at Bower Hill so special:

Karl Casey, Sally Child, Glenna Creaves, Margaret DeLair, Rick and Pat Jacobs, Aaron Jones, Jean Miewald, Chris Robbins, Lynn Wohleber, Joan Zakor, Debbie Boisvert, Anne and Gordon Mitchell, Margaret Zabo, Joan Bridges, Lee Ferrero, Betsy Hohlfelder, Phyllis Madden, Josie Sheldon, Donna Williams, Jason Rising, and Jason Robosky.

Aiden and Ella Belardi, Abigail Boisvert, Chris and Allie Bruder, Teagan and Barrett Bruce, Owen Geis, Ellena and Elise Gibbs, Autumn Grella, Calvin Kocher, Katie Krol, Michela and Drake Robbins, Clairra McElroy, Leah Smith, Beatrice and Gus Watterson.



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP PLANS

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

December 6: Second Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent
The Angel Gabriel:
A Celebration in Story and Song

December 20: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Communion
Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

December 24: 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Lessons and Carols with Sermon

December 27: First Sunday of Christmastide
Luke 2:41-52; Colossians 3:12-17

DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION SERVERS—December 20

Kirsten Bruder, Doris Olinger, Jim & Sarah Cannon

LECTORS

December 6: Dave Green
December 13: Debbie Boisvert
December 20: Sydney Saba
December 27: Jean Miewald

GREETERS

December 6: Theresa Child, Mary & Chuck Laufer
December 13: Nancy Criswell, Christine Henney
Dawn Kane
December 20: JoAnn & Leo Goode, Kristen Bruder
December 27: Andy Druckenbrod, Allison Schlesinger
Margaret Zabo

USHER CAPTAINS:

December 6, 13, 20: Mike Riemer
December 27: Andy Druckenbrod

ACOLYTES

December 6: Henry & Clara Druckenbrod, Sage Williams

December 13: Haydon Jones, Nate Rising
December 20: Lindsay & Allie Bruder
December 27: TBD

ADVENT READERS

November 29: Robbins Family
December 6: Druckenbrod Family
December 13: Salvante Family
December 20: Lease Family

COFFEE HOUR

December 6: Rising Family
December 13: Salvante Family
December 20: Burke Family
December 27: Andrews Family

FLOWER DEACONS

December 6: Nancy Geis
December 13, 20: Poinsettias
December 27: Darendale Lease



BHCC FAMILY PHOTO DIRECTORY

In early November, you should have received a three-ring binder in your stewardship bag containing the photo directory and family directory. We hope you take the time to sit back, relax, leaf through the pages and start placing faces with all those names you've been hearing through the years. We wish to thank all the hard work of the Communication Committee and the church members who had their pictures taken. This project was a success because of you!

We tried carefully to compile the names, ensure each photo directory page was good quality and had all the pages. If there was an error, please let us know. If a page was missing or not of good quality, we will print a new one for you. We believe we sent the files needed for printing pictures to everyone who requested them. But if we missed you or you changed your mind, please contact us. You can contact Glenn Child at gstchild@yahoo.com about any of the above.

We put the directory in a three-ring binder to allow you to add additional pages as new members join the church. The additional pages are not just for new members: if you missed getting your picture taken or your family composition has changed, please feel free to send us a new photo. As another option, we can take your picture at church when we take pictures for a new members class. The frequency of the distribution of the additional pages has not been determined.

The website version of the photo directory will be available soon. Information on accessing the directory in a newly created members-only section will be communicated in the near future.



SANDI'S GARDEN RECORDS ITS MOST PRODUCTIVE YEAR TO DATE!

Sandi's Garden has finally taken a much-deserved rest after producing more fresh, organic produce than ever. Our final tally is over 465 pounds from about 330 square feet of garden! Thanks to all who helped prepare the garden this spring, donated plants and seeds, kept it watered during the parched months of July through September, and shared some of the bounty of their home gardens. The clients of SHIM's Food Pantry were able to enjoy fresh produce from spring through fall.

Much feedback was received about how delighted the families were to be able to prepare meals with fresh, healthy food beyond the reach of their limited budgets. The churches and organizations participating in this wonderful ministry are already planning for next year's gardens.

Many thanks to those who help make Sandi's Garden such a successful part of BHCC's continued commitment to serve others.

GIANT EAGLE PURCHASES PROVIDE FIVE PERCENT TO BOWER HILL CHURCH

If you are a Giant Eagle or Get Go customer, five percent of your purchases can go directly to our church. How? By purchasing Giant Eagle cash cards for sale every Sunday before and after worship in the narthex.

Last year, Bower Hill Church earned \$3000 from the sale of Giant Eagle cards. The cards may be used instead of cash or credit cards in Giant Eagle, Market District, Get Go and Wet Go locations. The cards are available in \$50 and \$100 denominations. Members of the Bower Hill senior men's breakfast group sell the cards at a table in the narthex every Sunday. Personal checks or cash are accepted.

When used for payment at Giant Eagle and related businesses, the amount of your purchase is deducted from the card, and it may be used again until the full value of the card is spent.

Giant Eagle cards are an easy way to pay for your grocery and car needs, and they provide added revenue to Bower Hill Church with no additional cost to you.

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

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.

SENIOR MEN'S GROUP

Senior men's breakfast will meet on **Wednesday, December 2 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

The next collection day for Wallace Food Pantry is **Sunday, December 13**. For the month of December, their greatest need is dessert mixes that can be included in the Christmas dinner bags provided to client families. Desserts that are complete in one are preferred, but cake mixes are welcome 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.



Due to the Christmas holiday, the article submission deadline for the January Newsletter is December 11.

All weekly bulletin submissions are due on Tuesdays.

Many thanks to all of you for the prayers, love, support and cards that you have sent me during this difficult journey.



What a wonderful feeling it is to be embraced by our Bower Hill Community Church family and feel the love and support that you have extended to me. Denny and I, and DJ and family, are blessed to belong to such a caring church. I am halfway through my chemotherapy, and should be done by the end of January. We are praying for a remission. Many thanks again.

God bless you all!

Nancy Geis

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.

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



THREE RIVERS RINGERS Presents "Carols of the Bells"

This year's concert at Bower Hill Community Church will be held on **Friday, December 18 at 8:00 p.m.** You will enjoy the classics like *Silent Night* and the return of the spectacular *The First Noel*—plus much more!
The concert is FREE — donations accepted.

The
Church
Office



Will Be
Closed:

CHRISTMAS

Thursday/Friday
December 24 & 25

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Friday, January 1



Christmas poinsettias are available for purchase this year to be given in honor or in memory of loved ones. Each poinsettia plant is \$8.00. Please deliver this order form with payment to the Church Office or leave it in the Offering tray.

Sale Dates: November 29, December 6 and December 13

Deadline for orders is NOON on Monday, December 14.

Name: _____ **Phone:** (____) _____ - _____

of Plants _____

Check # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Flowers can be taken home after the service on Christmas Eve.

___ **I will take my flowers home.**

___ **Please deliver my flowers to those who cannot attend church.**



December 3 Katie Philson

December 6 Joan McAnulty
Steve Boisvert

December 7 Bill Andrews
Richard Salvante

December 8 Sophie Hicks

December 10 Christine Henney
Kathy Philson

December 11 Jason Robosky

December 14 Leo Geis
Betsy Prine
Tim May

December 18 Rob Mackey

December 19 Dwayne Fielder
Richard Headley

December 21 Abigail Boisvert

December 22 Beth Gardner

December 25 June Blake

December 28 Catherine Good

December 31 Betsy Hohlfelder

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 or email of-
fice@bhccml.com..



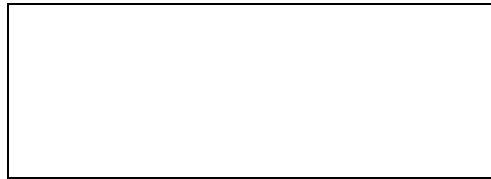
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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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

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Dianne Scott, Financial Secretary
di@bhccml.com

Karen Reynolds, Office Administrator
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

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.

