

~Reformation~

“For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—
not the result of works, so that no one may boast.”

~Ephesians 2:8-9

Members and Friends,

What does it mean to be Protestant? To be Presbyterian? When I came back to the Christian faith, late in my college years, I intentionally chose the Presbyterian Church. I had visited a majestic downtown church with a dwindling congregation and a huge endowment. I liked its reverence and its beauty, but I especially liked its literary bent. I was an English major with grand visions of someday lecturing in tweeds with leather elbow patches, while tinkering with an unlit pipe. The preacher at that church was good—a native Pittsburgher, far from home, who ended up dying young. He was always quoting writers that I admired, but not in such a way as to make him sound snobbish or effete. He did it thoughtfully, like a man making sense of things. I settled into Presbyterianism as a grateful spiritual refugee—lo, these twenty-four years ago. (That’s half my life plus four years!) Since I’d grown up in a church that was big on guilt and condemnation, I especially loved the “Words of Assurance” that the minister intoned each week from that high stone pulpit: “Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ: In him, we are forgiven.” I’d never heard those words before, and I’ve never heard them since—at least not in that exact form—on anyone’s lips but my own. But they were (and remain) powerful for me. At that time in my life, I needed to hear them week after week. Like so many people, I needed to be reminded of the things we so easily forget: that forgiveness is possible, that it’s available to me, that after receiving it, our job is to share it. We need constant reminding.

When October rolled around, I was shocked one Sunday to hear a loud yell at the back of the church. A man in a kilt was swinging a staff, as bagpipes began to wail. The caterwauling noise slowly took the shape of a recognizable hymn that echoed through the cavernous old church. On Reformation Sunday—the last Sunday in October—a whole troupe of Highlanders in kilts and tartans would come marching down the center aisle. We always sang “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God,” that great hymn of the first reformer, Martin Luther. Of course, we were celebrating the Protestant Reformation of the 1500s, when Luther and Calvin (and his student, Knox) worked to put the church back into the hands of the people. The reformers wanted committees instead of bishops, yes, but they mostly wanted laypeople to know that the forgiveness is free. For that reason, the sermon on Reformation Sunday was always about forgiveness: You can’t buy it. You can’t earn it. You can’t deserve it. You can only receive it, a gift freely given and freely to be shared. All the stops were pulled out on Reformation Sunday.

That was all in the early 90s. Reformation Sunday is probably less celebrated today. I see the point of those who don’t want to overemphasize the Protestant Reformation. We don’t want to be jingoistic or triumphalist, touting our brand-of-church above all others. We don’t want to celebrate schism from our Catholic brothers and sisters, either. Years of healing, cooperation, and mutual respect have done much to bridge old divides between Catholic and Protestant. I agree. And yet, forgiveness is still free, and that is worth an October Sunday’s celebration.

In fact, it’s worth a whole lifetime of celebration. It’s worth hearing those same exact words week after week: “Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ...”

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Your Life is a Gift to the World:

Seeing, Hearing & Loving One Another for the Glory of God
October 24-26th

Gilmary Center, 601 Flaugherly Run Rd.,
Coraopolis, PA 15108

Parish Life is happy to announce that the women's retreat will take place again this year. We are excited about the growing group of women interested in attending the retreat. Registration forms will be available. Please complete a form and return it to Sheri Geis, Michelle Snyder or Kiri Rising. For those of you who are still unsure, please see Sheri, Michelle or Kiri with any questions. If you are unable to attend the entire weekend, please think about joining us on Friday evening for fun ice breakers and get to know the women of Bower Hill a little better. You may also choose to stay for only one night or come and spend the day on Saturday. We would love for you to join us!

FALL FEST POTLUCK

Come join us on Sunday, October 12, at 5:30 p.m. for an all-church potluck dinner. Bring a fall-themed dish or dessert to share. There will be fun activities for all ages, including good old-fashioned bobbing for apples! Children are also invited to bring their own pumpkin to paint. If you are interested in coming, please sign up on the bulletin board so that Parish Life can plan accordingly. We hope to see you there!



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.

October 21: *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

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 advertised as we finalize our hosts.



BBQ CHICKEN DINNER TO BENEFIT CHARITY

Upper St. Clair - Bethel Park Rotary Club will hold its only annual fundraiser, the famous Chicken Barbecue, on Saturday, October 4. You can dine in or just drive through our take-out line. Each meal is still \$10 (\$12 if you buy your tickets at the door). The meal includes chicken, beans, coleslaw, a roll and a drink. This one-day event will take place at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Route 19 in Upper St. Clair. All of our proceeds go to various local and international charitable organizations. Contact Dave or Susan Hicks at 412-720-0125 or send an email to: susiebhicks@yahoo.com.



SHIM SHUFFLE: FUN RUN!

The SHIM Shuffle is back and better than ever! This year's Shuffle will take place on Saturday, October 18. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the Shuffle begins at 9:30 a.m. The Shuffle will take place on the Montour Trail at George Washington Elementary School next to Al's Café (518 Clifton Road, Bethel Park). All pre-registered participants will receive a T-shirt if registered by October 9. Get more info at: <https://shim-center.org/events/shuffle/> or see the bulletin board across from the church office for individual registration forms.



YOGA OFFERED FOR ALL ABILITY LEVELS

All-Levels Yoga is offered in the Lounge on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (NOTE: **NO CLASS** on October 7). 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."



Save the date and join us
for these special events!

Saturday, October 4th
7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Haiti Comedy Night

Sunday, October 12th
5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Fall Fest Potluck

October 18th
SHIM Shuffle Fun Run

Friday, October 24 - Sunday, October 26th
Women's Retreat

Saturday, November 15
Progressive Dinner

Saturday, November 22
BHCC Flea Market



COMEDY NIGHT SCHEDULED: BRING FRIENDS!

3rd Annual Comedy Night
Saturday, October 4th
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. with the three-
comedian show starting at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each,
with reserved seating for tables of eight.

If you've come in the past, you know it's an en-
tertaining time in Fellowship Hall. So invite
your friends for an evening of laughter!

All proceeds benefit
our Haiti Water Project.

Contact Mary Good for tickets (412-341-0291).

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 01	Nicholas Westerhoff
October 02	Anne Mitchell Anne Noland
October 03	Madeline Good Rachel Robosky
October 04	Gordon Post
October 05	Tyler Kane
October 06	Ginny Starr Heather Wylie
October 08	Mark Criswell
October 09	Woody Hughes

October 10	Tooie Sharkey Eleanora Freas
October 11	Jason Rising
October 12	Andrejs Baumhammers Sara Waller Vanessa Shwallon
October 17	Ryan Kelly Lesley Olinger
October 18	Trisha Eliason Autumn Grella
October 19	Mary Ketchum
October 22	Allison Gibbons
October 23	Lydon Cameron Zak Kerner
October 24	Dave Stewart
October 26	Dorothy Post
October 27	Brad Gray

October 29	Robert Balentine Grace Foster Isabella Williams
October 30	Curt Philson
October 31	David Cameron

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, 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. Elder Steve Boisvert is the Chair of Adult Education.

October 5: There will be a roundtable session with members of the Haiti Travel Team discussing our accomplishments and challenges to date, and how our Haiti Water Project can be most effective in supporting our current partners and moving forward with potential new partners.

October 12: Elder Michele Hanna-Snyder will lead the first of two sessions on "Growing Faith Through Doubt."

October 19: Rev. Brian Snyder will host a session on "Why and How We Pray."

October 26: Elder and Clerk of Session Bill Cadwell will review the book *The Smartest Kids in the World*.

KOINONIA: WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Koinonia is the name of Bower Hill's Women's Bible Study group. The group meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. in Room 110 (Lounge) from September through May. Koinonia is a Greek word meaning "fellowship." While we come together to learn and to deepen our faith, equally important is the fellowship we share with one another. A strong Biblical background is not required to be a member... all you need is a desire to grow. Please join us next Wednesday! Contact Kathy Philson with any questions.

OCTOBER WORSHIP PLANS

October 5: World Communion Sunday
Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Philippians 3:4b-14
"What If You Lost Everything?"

October 12: 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Matthew 22:1-10, Philippians 4:1-9
"Think About These Things."

October 19: 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Exodus 33:17-23, Matthew 22:15-22
"Rendering unto Caesar."

October 26: Reformation Sunday
Matthew 22:34-40; Deuteronomy 34:1-12
"As Far As the Western Sea."

Kristoffer Douglas Lansbery



*Born July 20, 2014
at Mercy, Pittsburgh
to Emily Philson Lansbery and
Eric Lansbery*

Baptized on September 28, 2014

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNION SERVERS

October 5 Rich Salvante, Lynn Foltz, Dave and Susan Hicks

COFFEE HOUR

October 5 The Druckenbrod Family
October 12 The Child Family
October 19 The Mezyk Family
October 26 The Johnson Family

LECTOR

October 5 Jason Rising
October 12 Mary Good
October 19 Keith Mason
October 16 Ellie Rising

GREETERS

October 5 Steve Boisvert, Theresa Child, Patti Hansen
October 12 Alan and Betsy Hohlfelder, Nancy Criswell
(substitute Usher Captain Karl Casey)
October 19 Nancy Salvante, Judy Delestienne,
Andy Druckenbrod
October 26 Dennis and Nancy Geis, Rich Salvante

ACOLYTES

October 5 Lydon and Amelia Cameron,
Graceann Foster (CB)
October 12 Lindsay and Allison Bruder
October 19 Gabriel and Anna Mezyk
October 26 Avery and Sydney Saba

USHER CAPTAIN Peter Morgan



Marla Kemmler
ma@bhccml.com

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

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

The Bower Hill programming year is off to a great start. We had a very busy Kick Off on Sunday, September 7. The morning started with a wonder breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who made this time of fellowship possible. Nate Rising gave his very first Minute for Mission about Mission Week which was held in early August.

The 3rd graders received their very own Bibles. There were 38 young people (nursery – 6th grade) in attendance. Volunteers and families and kids all seem to be settling into the new fall schedule easily.

There is still a need for Children's Worship volunteers. Volunteers do not need to plan anything. You only need to have a heart for kids. Marla will send you a reminder email the week before you are to help with details for that week. If you have not already volunteered, please consider volunteering. If you have already volunteered, please consider volunteering again!

The following dates are open: November 2, 23, 30 and December 7, 14, 21 and 28. A sign-up sheet is on the Christian Ed. bulletin board across from the kitchen, or please email Marla at: ma@bhccml.com

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered in September and October.

NEW INTERIM MUSIC DIRECTOR



Please welcome the Rev. Dr. Richard Szeremany (pronounced "zarah-many"), Bower Hill Church's new Interim Director of Music. Richard will be leading us in worship throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons, remaining with us at least through Epiphany Sunday in January.

Richard is a nationally renowned organist, a choir director, and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). A New Jersey native, he served for many years as Minister of Worship, Music, and Arts at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. He is active in the American Guild of Organists as well as Pittsburgh's sacred music scene.

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.

CHRISTIAN ED. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.



SIGNING IN WORSHIP

On October 5, the 3rd-6th grade will be signing the Glory Patri during worship. If your child attended Mission Week they already know the sign language. If your child did not attend that is OKAY! We will be having practice September 28 during second hour in the Sanctuary with Cathy Morgan. If your child wishes to take part, please have them meet in the Sanctuary when the bell rings for second hour. Any children attending Second Hour child care will be signed in by Marla after practice. **PLEASE** pick your child up there after Second Hour. Grades 5&6 will have a short class after practice. If you have any questions please see Marla. Thank You!



Branching Out



REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Please join the celebration as we show off our recently completed renovation of the playground, which included a new drainage system and new safe surfacing material. The celebration will occur immediately following the worship service and before adult education on Sunday, October 5th, with refreshments for all and games for the kids.

Two items from the list outlined in the Capital Campaigns projects have been completed, the Steeple and the Playground Renovation. The generosity of our members has created a wonderful pool of money to help improve the BHCC campus and programs. It's important that we are good stewards of the money pledged and collected. The Capital Campaign Committee is responsible for that.

As of 8/31/2014, \$341,805.00 has been received in cash or capital asset gifts. This represents over 40% of the money pledged to be paid over three years. The committee is excited to be able to move on to the next items on the list and is working with Building and Grounds to coordinate the replacement of windows and with the church staff on media initiatives.

Along with the two completed projects, 10% of the amount collected through June 30th has been paid to four organizations to fulfill our commitment to allocate this percentage to Mission. Equal payments were made to SHIM, Hekima Place, Family Promise and the Haiti Water Project from the pool of \$24,779.07. The committee will continue to review receipts on a quarterly basis and to make additional payments to these four areas of mission.

Please join in the celebration of the completion of the Playground on Sunday, October 5th at Coffee Hour (see information above). It is hoped that the children can be outside and adults can observe their activities on the playground from the handicapped parking lot.

CHURCH LIBRARY NEWS

To "sign out" a book or books from the church library, place the cards (found in the back of the book) in a basket on the window sill in the library. You do not need to sign your name, as privacy protection eliminates the requirement to do that. When returning books place them in the larger basket. They will be put back on the shelf as soon as possible. If you have questions or comments, call Carolyn Westerhoff.

FALL FLEA MARKET COLLECTION

We continue to collect items for the Fall Flea Market (we pretty much collect all year, but the fall collection officially begins in September). Due to the success of the spring flea market, we cleared out much of our "inventory" so we have lots of space for new items! All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday before or after worship.

If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. PLEASE NO CLOTHES OR LARGE FURNITURE! If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519 or tree-toowon@yahoo.com.

NEW PEW PAMPHLETS

Bower Hill Church has "gone glossy!" Located in the pews, you'll find beautiful, new, full-color pamphlets describing the ministries, missions, and mindset of our congregation. These pamphlets are free for visitors and members to take home and read. Take a few and give them to neighbors who ask about your church. A big "Thank You" to the Communications Committee for their hard work on these brochures.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH:

Josie Sheldon is chairing a "search committee" to review applications, interview applicants, and recommend a new Director of Music to the Session. Please pray for the work of the committee, and contact Josie if you know of a talented person who might be interested in the position.

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).

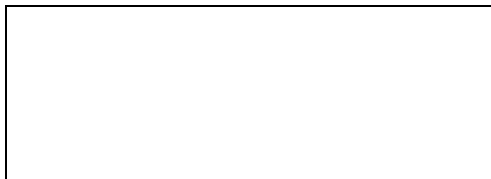
BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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Pittsburgh, Pa 15243



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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
Moody & 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.