

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

All Church Picnic in Avalon Park Sunday August 24th at 10:30 am.

Come for the Worship, Stay for the Fun!

This year's Church Picnic and Worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. at Avalon Park, just off New Brighton Rd. near the Avalon pool. There is a nice new shelter there along with a playground, field and basketball court.

Following the 10:30 worship service in the park, plan to stay for lunch and family games. This is not just kids stuff! We will have an Intergenerational Whiffle Ball game, sack races for all ages, a grown-up water balloon toss and egg carry. New records will be set in all age groups at the 1st Annual CPCBA Rolling Pin Toss! This is a church family affair, so plan to stay for an afternoon of fun, fellowship and a final farewell to Todd Tracy on his last Sunday with us.

Our Deacons will provide a main dish of chicken for lunch along with all utensils, plates and paper goods. Please bring a side dish to share, by last name:

A - M: Salad

N - Z: Dessert

We hope to see you at your church family picnic.

A Community Pirate Party and Boat Launching, Friday August 15th

On our last day of Vacation Bible School you are invited to our final party on the front lawn of the church. Many of you have attended these festivities in the past and you know they are full of good times, great fun and fabulous food. This year will be no exception, but there will be some additions!

It's a Pirate Party, complete with a "boat launching". The launching will be to help send Todd Tracy off to Princeton Seminary in good style and with more good memories of fun and fellowship with his CPCBA church family. We probably will not break a bottle of champagne over his bow, but you never know.

Here's what you can expect:

6:00 – Cookout on the lawn. There will be some table seating, but feel free to BYO picnic blanket or lawn chairs.

6:30 – Let the Pirate Games begin! We will have lawn games that involve water, so children may want to bring a bathing suit or dress in clothes that can get a bit wet. The special surprise will be a dunking tank for those Captains of the Church that volunteer to walk the plank.

Please come help us celebrate the end of a wonderful VBS and the beginning of a blessed new journey for our friend Todd as he sets sail for new waters.



Can You Help Decorate the Pirate Ship?

On Tuesday, August 5th from 1:00 – 5:00 pm we will be having a decorating party to help set the stage for Vacation Bible School. We will need all hands on deck to help us create a Pirate world. If you have a bit of free time that afternoon, stop by and lend a hand as we transform the church into a Vacation Bible Ship!



We are so sorry ! Lancaster Bus Trip Has Been Cancelled

We have found it necessary to cancel the bus trip scheduled in September to the Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA. At this time there was not enough interest to fill a bus, however we will try again to schedule another trip, perhaps during a different time of the year.



- by Pastor Page Creach

A Time For Understanding And Assessing



The Pastor's Pen

My approach to beginning to be your pastor is to spend a good deal of my time *understanding* you. As I begin to meet with church staff and leaders and eventually all of you, I want something to happen in the conversation that does not always happen when two or more talk together. That is, I want to *understand* what is in your mind and on your heart. As your pastor, I want to listen to you care-fully and prayerfully in order to discern all that you have to say.

Proverbs 20:5 warns me that this is not so easy to do: *“The purpose in a human mind is like deep water, but the one who has understanding will draw it out.”*

This bit of wisdom calls me to do more than merely try to make sound decisions about what is best for the church with you. The pastor's work is to understand what is life between God and God's people. This kind of understanding requires more than easy listening and sharp decision-making skills. It includes discernment; and discernment includes prayer and empathy as one tries to listen to both God and another person.

Here is an example of what I mean: Someone told the pastor that one of the church members lost a tree in his yard when strong winds blew last night. The pastor who

sought to understand did not reply, “Thank goodness it did not fall on the house!” The pastor noticed that the person speaking of this incident seemed to remain very concerned. So the pastor ventured to ask: “How long was that tree in his yard? Was it a special tree?” Then the person added: “He planted it with one of his sons who was five at the time. It was for his oldest son, George – he was the one killed in Korea.” Then the pastor knows to call, send a note, or pay a visit to the church member who lost not only the tree but another beloved memory of George as well.

Though I want to tell you how happy and energized I feel in this call to serve as your pastor, it is true that all of this talking and listening can tax the minister at times and perhaps some who share in these conversations also. Yet, this is how I want to begin my ministry among you: I want to take the time to *understand* you: who you are, what experiences you have had that shape your life with God and others, and who you want to be in this particular church. So I will look for what is deeper than pleasantries and seek, with God's help, an accurate perception of what matters to you.

The Choir Room Has Had a Make Over—Why Not Check It Out and Stay for a Rehearsal?

If you haven't visited the choir room recently, you should. It has an entirely new look. We have moved chairs into a new configuration. We have added shelving as a means of getting “stuff” off the floor. Thanks to the generosity of the Property Committee we have a new wall-sized dry-erase board. We have added a sound system which will enable us to listen to the world's greatest choirs as we strive to emulate them. Thanks to Jeff Houser for his willingness to fish wires where angels fear to...fish wires.

Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday evening, August 28th at 8 p.m. This will allow us two rehearsals before September 7th, our first Sunday back in the sanctuary when the service returns to 10:30 a.m.

In case you have forgotten our stringent eligibility requirements for choir membership, let's review:

1. You must be at least 4 feet, 5 inches tall. If you are allowed to ride roller coasters at Kennywood, you're tall enough for the choir.
2. You should weigh at least 50 pounds. (That is approximately 31 kilograms or 8 stones, Roger Cranville.)
3. You need a voice. Not a good voice, not a trained voice—just a voice.
4. You must be fluent in Church Latin and Hebrew. Aramaic is a definite plus.
5. Just kidding on #4. English is more than sufficient.
6. Finally, you need to like to laugh a lot. Every member of our choir has a great sense of humor, otherwise they wouldn't put up with me. Laughter, and I don't mean to get all *Reader's Digest* on you, is the best medicine. It is one of God's therapeutic gifts.

If you are considering singing in the choir, remember to join us on Sunday morning, August 17 at 8:30 for our 2nd “pickup choir” of the summer. We will quickly learn an anthem which we'll sing at the 9:30 service.

Pax,
David Anderson

SESSION CORNER

by Peter Herchenroether
Clerk of Session

This month Session returns from its annual July recess and welcomes Rev. Dr. Page Creach to her first Executive Committee and Regular Session meetings. We look forward to her leadership as our Moderator and as our installed pastor. She has been diligently working to learn all about CPCBA and its members and community.

Let us all give her, and her family, a hand by always wearing our name tags and being ready and willing to assist whenever asked to do so. This is truly and exciting time for us all.

Ahoy Maties! The Vacation Bible Ship is Not Just for the Young Swabbies—Grown-ups are Welcome...

Our Vacation Bible School with *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything* begins Monday, August 11th at 5:30 p.m. There is still room for Adults to join the class. Grown-ups will have time of their own to explore their faith and real life connection in our adult forum tailored especially for you and led by a Christian Ed team, including yer new 'Captain', Pastor Creach.

Each night we will open for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and we'll sail off to class from 6-8. Classes are Monday through Thursday evenings. Friday night will be a Celebration Party and also a Farewell for Todd Tracy, our Youth Director, who is setting sail for new waters.

All are welcome at VBS. Kids are NOT a requirement to attend! Adults can sign up in the Narthex OR now online at www.cpcba.com.

Our Family News

✧ Births ✧

Isabella Arland Treese
Daughter of Del and Sadie Treese
on July 11, 2008

✧ Directory Update ✧

Jones, Zachary—Page 25

Correct Address: 24 Starr Avenue
Correct Phone: 412-773-2006

If you have any changes to the directory, address, phone or e-mail, please e-mail Sandy Stauffer at esstauff@verizon.net.



Thank You Note

The following is an excerpt of a letter received from the Pediatric Unit of Allegheny General Hospital in response to the blankets received on Faith in Action Day:

July 9, 2008

Dear Congregation of Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon,

Thank you so much for your generosity in providing our pediatric population with such a wonderful and vast array of fleece blankets! Your Pediatric Blanket Ministry truly brightens and lifts the spirits of our children as well as their parents. It is so nice for our patients and families knowing that your thoughts, prayers and heartfelt get well wishes are with them during an often upsetting, frightening and traumatic time in their lives. These blankets are so important in both the physical and emotional healing of our children and teenagers. It is these personalized blankets that our patients will cherish long after leaving the hospital. You have provided our pediatric patients with what they need most in the hospital setting – a sense of security, comfort and normalcy!

Thank you for embarking on this heartfelt Pediatric Blanket Ministry and for thinking of our pediatric population. I so appreciate your thoughtfulness, kindness and the time and effort you put into brightening the spirits of our children and their family members. Our entire Pediatric team thanks you as well! These awesome blankets make a tremendous difference in the child or teenager's coping and adjustment to hospitalization!

With profound gratitude,
Debbie Ziegler, CCLS
Certified Child Life Specialist
AGH Suburban Campus

Wooden Ladder Preschool Still Accepting Applications for 08-09 School Year

The Wooden Ladder Preschool is still accepting enrollment for students for the 2008-2009 school year. They have classes for children ages 18 months to 5 years. For more information, please call Louise Sonnet, Program Director, at 412-761-9195.



The Importance of a Daddy's Face —A Lesson for Us All From a 3 Year Old

- by Jody Jackson

Brynn loved her daddy. She loved her daddy's face and she loved the way her daddy loved her. Brynn was three years old when her daddy went to war. For many months he led eleven men in a faraway land. He went to help his country and to protect Brynn, her mommy and little brother and he was very brave. But Brynn missed her daddy's face and she wanted to touch him and tell him how much she loved him.

She played, went to school, and learned many things while her daddy was gone over seas and she grew taller and stronger. She helped her mommy and played with her brother and she took hikes and rode her bike. Sometimes she could see daddy's face on the computer through the webcam and that was a big treat and made her feel better. Still she missed his face.

Then one day after a very long wait her daddy came home. At first when all the people were in the big auditorium she couldn't see her daddy. He was in the back row and too hidden by everyone else for her to find. Brynn was sad and said to mommy, where is daddy, I can't see his face. Then the speeches were over and she ran into his arms and didn't ever want to leave them again. She was so happy and felt warm and safe when she felt his arms around her. And she could finally see and touch his face.

The next day was Father's Day and they went to visit her baby sitter and her family. Brynn was eating a hot dog and daddy was talking to friends at the other end of the table. When Brynn looked up her daddy was hidden behind her baby sitter. Brynn politely asked her to step aside, just a bit, so she could see her daddy's face.

I am Brynn's grandmother, and my three year old has taught me a beautiful lesson. Shouldn't I be looking and seeking always the face of heavenly Daddy. He loves and cares for all of us just like Brynn's daddy loves her, only so much more. It is His face we should seek and His arms that enfold us. My prayer is that Brynn will love her daddy for a long, long time and love her heavenly Daddy forever.

I would like to thank the congregation for its wonderful response to Jim Willis and his team while they were serving in Iraq. Thank you for the prayers, cookies, boxes, and kind words for his safe return and for your concern for his family. You are a loving, caring people and dear friends. It meant so much to all of us.

Lovingly,
Jody Jackson



Finding Fourth and Fifth Facilitators For Fall

Dear Friends and Fellow Followers,

This fall our fourth and fifth graders will make a fantastic flock of fun kids. It is not far-fetched to say that they are ready to take flight in their faith. For all of their fabulous hearts, our kids need a fine, faithful and first-rate faction to function as facilitators. These facilitators will use facts, flair and finesse to further the faith of these fledglings. The focus of each festive gathering will be fixed for you, but can be flexible. The flock may even fly away for fun field trips a few times. If you can find a few friends who may be fond of the idea, the fun could be frequent and you would not be forced to lead too frequently.

If all of this is filling you with the faith of the spirit, but you feel far from fitting...fear not! We do not seek the flawless, only the faithful to help set a foundation of love and fondness for faithful learning. For more facts, feel free to ~~fore~~ phone Melanie Holcomb, your Firector of Christian Feducation at (four12) 761-1233.

Fall is Fast upon us!

Backpack Outreach Reminder

Hopefully you've noticed all of the colorful backpacks lined up in the Narthex. Once again the Outreach Committee asked CPCBA members to fill new backpacks for the children and youth of the 2nd UP Church in Wilksburg. What a wonderful day it is when the back packs are distributed to these needy children. To see the looks on their faces as they proudly display their brand new back pack filled with new school supplies - these are not "hand-me-downs" and they know it!



On August 10 the Outreach Committee will host a "back to school" coffee hour when all of the back packs will be on display. If you haven't had a chance to participate in this local mission project, you still have time! The packs will be taken to Wilksburg the week of August 11.

Thank you for your support on this project!

The Flower Committee Extends Their Thanks

Have you noticed the beautiful new arrangement that adorns the side entry into the sanctuary? Thanks to Jan Davis we now have an artfully done artificial arrangement to beautify this often forgotten space. In an emergency, you might even see it in the sanctuary when the "wires get crossed" on the flower schedule (and it does happen!!).

Thanks, Jan, for sharing your creativity in such a wonderful way.

Judy Hay

**Community Presbyterian
Church of Ben Avon
Mission Statement:**

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon aspires to a greater service of God through a ministry mindful of the needs of our congregants, neighbors and, through the Presbyterian Church (USA), the world community.

We actively bind together this community of Jesus Christ through warm fellowship, inspiring worship, nurture, learning and a long, rich tradition.

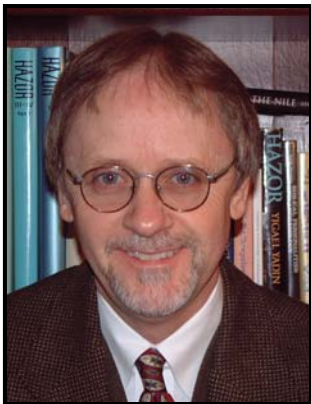
We are led by the Holy Spirit to use our abundant blessings and diverse talents progressively for evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and mission.

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon
7501 Church Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202

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"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." Revelation 22:21



**The Sixth Annual Pomeroy/Nelson Theologian-in-Residence Series
is pleased to introduce
Dr. Ron Tappy as Guest Lecturer in September**

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE? WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN? IS IT TRUE?

This year's Pomeroy/Nelson Theologian-in-Residence Series Guest Lecturer is Dr. Ron Tappy, world-renowned expert on Biblical Archaeology. Fresh from his dig at Tel Zayit, Dr. Tappy will reveal the latest discoveries in Biblical Archaeology and what they mean to history and our faith.

Dr. Tappy received world-wide attention when he and his team discovered a 38 pound limestone tablet on which was inscribed an alphabet dating back to the reign of King Solomon. He is also a leading authority on the archaeology of Israelite Samaria. He has written articles on a variety of topics, including biblical archaeology, ancient Israelite beliefs about the afterlife, the 23rd Psalm, and the Ten Commandments. He focuses his teaching on how these areas can enliven our reading of the Bible today.

Dr. Tappy is the G. Albert Shoemaker professor of the Bible and archaeology and is also the director of the James Kelso Bible Lands Museum at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

This year marks the sixth year of the Pomeroy-Nelson Theologian-in-Residence Series. These lectures were first endowed by Judge Thomas Pomeroy and later further endowed by Elder Tom Nelson. Both men were members of the Board of the Seminary and wished to continue our church's long and meaningful association with the Seminary.

***The Sixth Annual Pomeroy/Nelson Theologian-in-Residence Series
September 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2008
Sunday Mornings—9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Fellowship Hall, CPCBA***