

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



The Pastor's Pen

- by Pastor Page Creach

As we get closer to Easter's Resurrection hope, I give thanks for the ways you that you practice it. The example closest to my heart and mind these days is when the Boy Scout weekend retreat turned into the saddest time of death and grief for the community last month. You responded in a thousand ways with Resurrection hope. First, you surrounded all in fear, said, "*Do not be afraid; God is with you.*" Second, you came to those with streams of tears to *help God wipe them away*. Third, you opened your church and gathered together with acts of deep care and kindness. You used hugs, prayers, food, and worship with music, flowers, remembrances, and words of hope, life, and love, *to lift up the broken hearted and all who are crushed in spirit*. As you continue to remember the families and friends grieving the death of dear Jacob Snively, I offer some counsel on helping children to grieve.

From *Helping Children Grieve* by Theresa Huntley (prenatal counselor, Minneapolis Seton Center and children's loss and grief specialist):

Be Aware of Personal Feelings. Take time to reflect on your own feelings related to death (sadness, loss, regret) in order to better help children to cope with theirs.

Recognize That Each Child's Level of Understanding is Different. Seek information and resources that are appropriate for each child's age and developmental level.

Recognize That Each Child Will Grieve Differently. Grief has common traits, but it has individual expressions, too. Grief for children is influenced by the responses of those close to them and by their relationship with the person who has died.

Encourage Questions. When children want to know what has happened and what will happen now, tell them honestly what has happened and explain that you will help them through this time. Assure them that you will talk with them about any of their thoughts and feelings about death and loss and don't be afraid to say, "I don't know." Tell them you will try to find out who can help you talk to them about their questions. When you are emotionally exhausted yourself, make another time to talk together and keep the appointment with them, if you can.

Encourage Participation in Events Following the Death. Spend some time preparing children for events in the first few days following death and give them permission to choose the extent of their participation, if possible. Emphasize that they will not be forced to participate if they are uncomfortable.

Help the Child to Commemorate the Life of the One Who Died. It is often helpful for adults to help children find a meaningful way to commemorate the life of the one they love who has died. Share your favorite memories of the person and invite the child to share, too. Ask them how they would like to remember their loved one; for example, someone might want to plant a garden or a tree near his or her house.

Try to Maintain a Sense of Normalcy. Grieving children often find their world in turmoil. To restore some semblance of security, try to follow the child's normal routine. If you are overwhelmed and cannot offer this kind of care, consider having someone familiar to them come to your home to help during this time.

Use Available Resources. Accept this as a time of great emotional strain on your life and try to communicate your own feelings and needs. Others are waiting to help with everyday tasks; please let them. If you sense your children may need a counselor if they are continuing to have intense feelings and reactions to the death, or if you have questions or concerns, please call a counselor to help them to grieve well.

As we journey with one another, may God bless and keep us all.

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April Youth News

By Mike Mullin,
Youth Director



Lent continues for the Youth Groups. The youth have been practicing fasting though out Lent by giving up different things each week. As I (Mike) am writing this article, we are in the midst of going without TV and in-between meal snacks. I never really thought of either of those as a vice, but I have found after just two days that I really do miss snacking! We will culminate our fast during Passion Week by giving up music. This might seem impossible—many of the youth might agree—but, hopefully, it will help us to keep in mind the Latin root for the word passion is suffering. And after this week of suffering without music we can rejoice in its return. Perhaps this could be thought of as reflecting in a mirror dimly the ecstatic joy and praises we should be experiencing on Easter morning when we learn that our Lord, Jesus Christ, has conquered death for us and risen to ultimately sit at the right hand of God and be Lord over all!

Special Notice

The William and Virginia Denny France Memorial Scholarship

In honor of her parents, Jane France and her husband, Chris Allison, have established a scholarship fund for members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon who are planning to attend or are currently attending an institution or program of higher education.

The amount of the scholarship presented is \$5,000 and can be used in a lump sum or spread over the next five years. Funds are to cover tuition and books.

Applications will be mailed to all high school seniors who are members of the church. All church members under the age of 25 who are currently attending an institution of higher education may request an application form from the church office. Deadline for the applications is April 15th. An independent panel from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will read the applications (with names of applicants removed) and recommend a recipient for the scholarship. The recipient will be identified by May 10th and will be informed by letter. An announcement will then be made on the church bulletin board and in the June issue of Revelations.

Elder William and Virginia Denny France were faithful members of the Community Church. They would be proud of this opportunity to affirm and support our fine CPCBA young people. Thanks to Jane France and Chris Allison for their love of family, for their generosity of spirit, strong support of education, and belief in the youth of our church.

THOUGHTS FROM THE BALCONY

By Linda Williams,
Christian Ed Director

THE PASSION AND THE TRIUMPH: PALM SUNDAY THROUGH EASTER



Palm Sunday, often called Passion Sunday, is the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the King on the lowliest of beasts. What an entry! What a preview of the coming week's events! Some cheered while others plotted Jesus' death. Scripture (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10 or Luke 19:29-40) tells the tale. Be sure to read one or all of the accounts. Tell the story to the small ones and have older children read and act out the events, palms and all. It sets up the week to follow.

Holy Week, often taken for granted by Christians, is a time for slowing down to remember the significant events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Playing appropriate music to set the mood and making symbols to grace the center of the family dinner table can be meaningful activities and traditions. A loaf of bread and a chalice for Maundy Thursday; a cross for Good Friday; a few stones symbolizing the one at Jesus' tomb for Holy Saturday remind each one of what happened that day. Beginning on Thursday with the bread and chalice, each day another symbol is added. Scripture is read.

Thursday – John 13:1-17, 34-35

Friday – Matthew 27:32-44, Mark 15:25-41, Luke 23:26-43

Saturday – Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56,
John 19:38-42

Sunday – Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12,
John 20:1-9

Easter comes with the dawn on Sunday and the world is alive again. Early in the morning, flowers and butterflies are laid on top of the centerpiece to celebrate Christ's victory over death and to symbolize new life, everlasting life. The day is full of fun and beauty as families worship God, hunt for brightly colored eggs, prepare a feast for dinner and read the wonderful Easter story. Special food such as pascha bread, eggs and chocolate are often on the dinner menu. Prayers of thanksgiving and praise are said or sung. Some families have a tradition of sharing a glass of wine or grape juice and chanting or saying, "Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, for you give us the fruit of the vine." The pascha bread is broken and passed as someone chants or says, "Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, ruler of the universe, for you bring forth bread from the earth."

We are in the richest, most significant season of the church year, I urge you, whether you have children in the home or not, to embrace this time of reflection, confession and penance. Only then can you enter into the joy of Easter, sure of Christ's incarnation, life, death and resurrection. Sure that God gave us the greatest gift, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. There is no greater love.

Happy Easter! - - Linda

April Adult Education Opportunities

Film Group

Did you know we have a Film Study Group at CPCBA? This is a great small group fellowship. Each month we meet, watch and discuss movies, old and new, to discern the message and meaning for us. Call Jane DeSimone (412) 734-0290 or e-mail jane.desimone@comcast.net.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN AREA PRESBYTERIANS FOR -

**A John Calvin
500th Anniversary
Celebration**



Sunday, April 26 - 3:00 p.m.

Heinz Memorial Chapel

University of Pittsburgh

Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Charles Partee

Professor of Church History, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Organist: J. Christopher Pardini,

Director of Music/Organist, Shadyside Presbyterian Church

Reception following



Calvin is considered the spiritual forefather of Christians of the Reformed (Presbyterian) tradition. In addition, he had a major influence on the translation of the Psalms and the music for the singing of the Psalms in worship. He believed that people would remember what they sang.

Dr. Partee, a renowned Calvin scholar, is no stranger to CPCBA. He has been a Pomeroy/Nelson speaker for adult Sunday School as well as having preached here several times. His most recent book, *The Theology of John Calvin*, published in September, 2008, has been the focus of several seminars in the area.

This festive worship service, patterned after Calvin's worship in Geneva, is being sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Come join your fellow Presbyterians to experience our rich reformed heritage of worship in a worship space somewhat similar to those of Calvin's time. Barbara McKelway is participating in this service.



by Deacon Nancy Crawford

We would like to extend a thank you to departing deacons with gratitude for their hard work the past three years. We have truly been blessed. Thank you to Andy Deen, David Lancaster, Kristen Thompson, Douglas Tjemeland, David Vangonsen, and Mary Witul. They have been so generous of their time and so devoted to our membership.

Family members of deployed military personnel, please forward their e-mail contact and/or address for members to send them cards, messages or care packages.

Please forward your name if you hold any current medical certification as an EMT, paramedic, registered nurse, physician, or CPR and/or AED trained so we can update our medically trained list.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and have a blessed Easter.

Birthday Party Fellowship Dinner

The Fellowship & Evangelism Committee cordially invites you to a Birthday Party Fellowship Dinner on Wednesday, April 29th at 6 PM



We will celebration everyone's birthday will a pot-luck dinner followed by cake and ice cream.

Each of the 12 tables will be decorated according to month and you will sit with your fellow birthday mates. If your birthday is in Judy, you will sit at the table decorated with flags, firecrackers, etc. Sign up either in the church office or on a pew card. If you have questions or would like to help with this event,, contact Beth Joyce at 412-635-6151 or by e-mail at bhjhome@msn.com.

FAITH IN ACTION SUNDAY!



Mark your calendars, don't go to church on June 7th! Join with the CPCBA family and our friends in the community for our second annual Faith in Action Sunday. This is the day the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon cancels both worship services and instead worships *through* service in the community. Last year's event was a huge success and we look forward to another fabulous day of sharing and serving. **We will all join together at the close of our day for dinner, reflection, and evening service.**

We will be serving through these and other projects, all designed to directly touch lives and reflect Christ's love to others in our community: painting lockers and classrooms at the Neighborhood Academy, making and delivering fleece blankets for the babies and children who are patients at AGH-Suburban Campus, assembling caregiver kits for families of persons with AIDS (a World Vision project) at Masonic Village, and making Dignity Robes for women undergoing treatment for breast cancer.



The Outreach Committee is continuing to search for a variety of mission opportunities for Faith in Action Sunday. If you have any project suggestions that will benefit our community, or are interested in being a project leader or co-leader, please contact Kate Colville (412) 736-2062 or robjcolville@msn.com or Walt Robertson (412) 761-1020. There will be a project for everyone and we are shooting for 100% participation!

PLEASE HELP NOW! In our effort to cut Outreach expenses, we are asking church members for donations of (1) fabric for Dignity Robes and (2) fleece for the children's blankets. Keep your eyes open for sales at Joann Fabrics! If you are unable to shop, please consider a \$10-\$15 donation to purchase the above or donate your Joanne Fabric coupons. Specifically, we need:

2 1/2 yards washable cotton that you cannot see through (NOT FLANNEL) - Gail Buchanan is collecting.

2-3 yards fleece— sold or print - Kate Colville is collecting.

We are not just serving the community, we are serving *with* the community. So please begin now to ask God which family members, friends or neighbors you should invite to join our service projects on Sunday, June 7th. Together we can make a difference in our community! Don't just go to church - BE the church on Faith in Action Sunday!



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



NORTH HILLS YOUTH MINISTRY COUNSELING CENTER'S ANNUAL BOOK SALE!

NHYMCC builds hope and understanding through faith-based counseling and support services for youth, adults, couples, and families in our communities.

We will be collecting books throughout the month of April for delivery by May 1st. The book sale will once again be at Clayton Community Center at Memorial Park Church in Allison Park. The sale runs Monday through Friday, June 8th—12th. Keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to work with others from our congregation on one of the sale evenings. This will be our fourth year working at the sale and it is a wonderful fellowship opportunity while serving an excellent organization.

WANTED: used books, new books, videos, DVDs, cassettes, CDs
PLEASE NO: magazines, encyclopedias, old textbooks or records

APRIL SHOWER



HEARTH (Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing) receives support annually from our church's mission budget. Located in the former St. Benedict School (near the Perrysville Avenue exit of I-279), HEARTH's transitional housing program has provided housing to more than 150 women and more than 250 children. Since its founding in 1989, members of our church and other North Boroughs residents have been active in the organization.

Each spring, our congregation participates in an "April Shower" of household goods for families currently living at Benedictine Place. This year's shower theme focuses on bathroom items such as hand towels and washcloths.

Look for a cluster of "April Shower" umbrella cut-outs on the bulletin board in the church narthex. Each umbrella identifies an item on the donation list such as a bath towel, etc. When you take an umbrella write your name alongside that item on the sign-up list. Please bring your item to church before the collection ends on Sunday, May 3rd.

Members of our congregation will be delivering the gifts on Thursday evening, May 7th. They will tour the Benedictine Place facility and talk with HEARTH staff members and program participants. If you would like to join us that evening, please call Jody Jackson at 412-364-8573.

For more information on HEARTH, visit www.hearth-bp.org.

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

The Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon recently received several new members. Please read their biographies, add their addresses to your directory, and give them a warm welcome to our family of faith!

Reverend Donald Steele Don is a retired Presbyterian minister who has moved back to Pittsburgh to be near family. Don joins his niece, Claire Le Beau, also a member here at CPCBA. He has joined the Wednesday morning bible study group and is singing tenor with the choir. Don's interests include music, reading, and he volunteers for the Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council teaching English as a second language to Burmese refugees.



New members, **Dawn and Jon Bellotti**, 17 year old son, **Brett**, 12 year old daughter, **Reilly**, and 5 year old son, **J**, live just down the street on Church Avenue. They are native Pittsburghers (Jon is a 1990 Avonworth graduate). Brett, a junior at Avonworth High School, enjoys mixed martial arts with Jon, Sr. Reilly is in 7th grade at Avonworth Middle School and J attends Wooden Ladder Pre-school. Both Dawn and Jon were paramedics and now are registered nurses. Dawn works in the emergency room at Suburban General Hospital and Jon works for UPMC. The family enjoys time together at their camp in Ohio. The Bellotti Family was drawn to CPCBA by its presence in the community – whether it is a youth function or a funeral.



Welcome!



**Avonworth High School
Junior Class
Fashion Show & Luncheon**

Shannopin Country Club
Sunday, April 19th, Noon – 4 PM
\$22.00 per ticket

For reservations
call Carolyn MacDonald at 412-741-1244

Proceeds benefit the Avonworth Class of 2010 and the Aaron Pellicano Family

Each and every kindness is a beautiful reminder of God's great love -



Thank You Notes

Dear Pastor Creach, Church Staff & Members~

Our family would like to sincerely thank you, each and every one of you, for the wonderful and tremendously warm welcome. We are so excited and feel truly blessed to be joining such an incredibly wonderful church family. Thank you and bless you for being so nice.

Sincerely,
The Bellotti Family

Our Family News

☞ Deaths ☞

Charlott M. Boggs
August 11, 1906—March 19, 2009

Nell Elizabeth Herchenroether
October 26, 1921—March 31, 2009

☞ Directory Additions ☞

Dawn and Jon Bellotti
Brett Vasquez, Reilly, "J" Jon
6628 Church Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
(412) 415-3690
dmbellotti@hotmail.com

Rev. Donald Steele
531 Roosevelt Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
(412) 766-4835
steele1217@earthlink.net

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

for May
Revelations
is April 22nd

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



Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon Directory

Pastor Rev. Dr. Page Creach
Christian Education Director Linda Williams
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries Mike Mullin
Director of Music/Choir Director David Anderson
Associate Music Director/Organist Barbara McKelway
Administrative Assistant Kathy Melisko
Clerk of Session Kim Cuneo
Treasurer Ross Dillon
Trustees, President Steve Mellon
Deacons, Chair Bob Nadin
Junior Church, Coordinator Jan Davis
Wooden Ladder Preschool Larry Skerlong
Financial Secretaries: Barbara Barcousky
..... Dwight Chvala
..... Chuck Hamilton
..... Jim Russell
..... Deb Sadowski
Web Masters Susan and Marty Houser

Committee Chairs:

Christian Education Clair Cranville,
..... Rebecca Kurtz
Fellowship & Evangelism Beth Joyce, June Weletz
Nominating Committee Jennifer Knuth
Outreach Walt Robertson
Personnel Nathan Thompson
Property Walt Cronin, Bruce Hall
Stewardship & Finance Wendy Herchenroether
Worship Jan Davis, Steve Mellon

Deacon Comfort and Joy Contacts

(for meal assistance, transportation, grief support, etc.)
Maureen Kowalski (412-969-3706) Alan Bauer (412-766-7302)
Lee Dillon (724-876-0191)

Deacons Visitation Ministry

Lynn Evans (412-766-5487) Ed Stauffer (412-761-0704)
Herb McLuckie (412-761-3669)

(Please help the Deacons share the concern of our community by letting us know whether you, or a friend or family member, would welcome a visit.

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

† Phone: 412-761-1233; 412-766-1800 † Fax: (412) 766-1801 † E-mail: cpcba@verizon.net † Web site: www.cpcba.com
Chapel is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for prayer and meditation.