

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202

**We Welcome New Leaders
and a New Year in January '09**



- by Pastor Page Creach

The Pastor's Pen

In January six new elders and eight new deacons will begin to serve our church. Church officers are called to discern what is right and good for the congregation. We trust them to represent us by their personal commitment to God, to seeking God's will for the good of the church body. We pray that each one will prayerfully and thoughtfully make decisions that benefit the church.

I call attention to this transition to ask that you be in prayer with me for these new officers. I give thanks for their leadership and their willingness to serve. On January 11 the officers will be installed during worship (the 10:30 service) and the elders will spend the afternoon in training. They will become more familiar with the theology and polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and we will discuss the shape and function of ministry for the Ben Avon church.

The word mindfulness may help direct our prayers for the new church leaders. Mindfulness is a spiritual discipline, a practice of the human spirit that is essential for these new officers for the following reasons: It focuses our awareness of God with us; it helps us notice details of human need before us; it leads us to a shared vision of ministry to which the church is called and equipped to do. Mindfulness helps us stay alert to elements of the spiritual life -- moments of grace, opportunities for gratitude, evidence of our connection to others, signs of the presence of the Spirit.

Please pray that all members of our church together will be the people of God who serve with intelligence, imagination and faithfulness.

In Christian Service,

Page

Officers to Be Ordained and Installed January 11, 2009 During 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Elders: Class of 2011

Walt Cronin
Joyce Grater
Bruce Hall

Renee Miskimmin
Nathan Thompson

Deacons: Class of 2011

Michelle Dawley
Sarah Frank
Herbert McLuckie

Lee Dillon
Richard Herchenroether
Royce Rice

Youth Deacons: Class of 2009

Evan Dismukes

Amy Herchenroether



Meet the composer on January 4th Enjoy special music during the 10:30 Service

-by David Anderson, Music Director

It isn't often that we have the pleasure of having the composer of the anthem to be sung on a given Sunday morning in worship with us. On Sunday morning, January 4th, the Chancel Choir will sing Andrew Kohn's recently published work, *Brightest and Best*, which is scored for choir, solo flute, and hand drum. Andy will join us in worship and for the coffee hour to follow.

Andy Kohn is a Christian, a husband and father, and as learned a musician as you will ever meet. He plays the double bass in the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestra and serves as a professor of double bass and music theory at West Virginia University. If I were on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*, and the question stumping me had anything to do with music or the arts, Andy Kohn would unquestionably be my lifeline. Andy is known for the driest sense of humor this side of the Sahara desert. People often find themselves laughing on Tuesday at a comment Andy made on Sunday. Make a point of meeting Andy on the 4th.

Also joining us that morning will be flutist and guitarist, Tom Godfrey. Tom will play the classical guitar for the prelude and will switch to the flute for the anthem. Tom is also a member of the Pittsburgh Opera and Ballet Orchestra, the Westmoreland Symphony, and the Civic Light Opera Orchestra.

CPCBA Youth Director, Mike Mullin will play the hand drum for the anthem. Not everyone is aware that Mike earned a BA in music, specifically percussion, at Westminster College. Mike is also an accomplished pianist. Mike's enthusiastic willingness to share his musical talents is greatly appreciated.

Early January church services in most churches north of Richmond are often poorly attended; it is so cold outside and so warm in our beds. Yet for true followers of Christ, church attendance is not an obligation, it is a privilege. Without invoking the usual twaddle about New Year's resolutions, wouldn't 2009 be a good time to recommit to weekly church attendance? Yes, even when it's cold. Hope to see you on the 4th, and the 11th, and the 18th...

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

for February
Revelations
is
January 15

When One Door Closes...

Linda Williams Welcomed as New Christian Education Director

Jan Frisch, Personnel Committee Chair

It was with heavy hearts that we learned of Melanie's resignation. Melanie had been with CPCBA for so long, had helped see us through so much, what would we do without her? But, as the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens.

So, it is with great joy and thanksgiving that I can tell you that our new Christian Education Director, effective the first of the year, is someone well-known to many in this congregation – Linda Williams.

Linda has had a varied career that includes Director of Disciple Making and Spiritual Growth at Pittsburgh Presbytery, Consultant for Children's Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church and interim Director of Christian Education at Hiland Presbyterian Church. In addition to all of that, she has also been a faithful Prayer Group attendee here at CPCBA.

Linda will be working part-time with us so that she can still enjoy time with her grandchildren.

Please make sure you stop by after the first of the year and introduce yourself to Linda, our new Christian Education Director!

Choirs Begin New Year of Activity and Are Open to Any Who Would Like to Join

It's a new calendar year and often time for new resolutions or activities. Have you considered being a part of one of the choirs - Junior, Chancel or Bell? All groups welcome new members. Here's the information:

Junior Choir - boys and girls in grades 3-6.

The choir meets Sundays after church in the choir room and sings about once a month and for special occasions.

Chancel Choir - high school - ?

The choir meets Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. in the Choir Room for an hour and a half. Contrary to popular opinion, you do not need to be able to read music. Many choir members have good ears and pick up the music pretty quickly. Often "reading" comes as you learn.

Bell Choir - intergenerational, 6th graders and older

The choir meets Thursdays in the Choir room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

So, if you've been thinking about joining one of the groups, don't be shy. Come on down and WELCOME!



SESSION CORNER

by Peter Herchenroether
Clerk of Session

Dear Members:

I am pleased to report that at its December meeting Pittsburgh Presbytery joined with you in the approval of the Resolution presented at the Congregational Meeting in November, authorizing Session to negotiate the sale of the manse property. Session may now move forward with this transaction.

As you read this, I will have completed my term as Clerk and I wish to express my deep appreciation to my fellow Elders with whom I have served. Our Church has truly been blessed with the leadership and skills of these servants who do so much for us all on a regular basis. I particularly wish to acknowledge the Chairs of the Committees: Clair Cranville and Ken DiNino (Christian Education); June Weletz and Steve Mellon (Worship); Judy Hay and Kate Colville (Outreach); Andy Kolenda (Property); Nancy Hamilton (Fellowship & Evangelism); Ross Dillon and Wendy Herchenroether (Finance); Chris Skerlong and Jan Frisch (Personnel); Kim Cuneo (PNC) and Judy Fockler and Jen Knuth (Nominating). Together with our Pastors, Brent, Jean, Carol and Page, they have led us all over the past three years as we have sought to carry out our Mission. For those of you who serve on our various Boards and Committees, thank you! It is your contribution of time and energy that brings CPCBA alive with so many activities and opportunities for spiritual growth for our members and community.

Certainly, I was fortunate to have succeeded Jane DeSimone, who passed on an orderly routine for me to follow. I hope to do the same for our new Clerk, Joyce Grater!

Upcoming January Events



- Sunday, January 4
10:30 a.m. * Worship with communion
- Sunday, January 11
10:30 a.m. * Service of Ordination and Installation
12:00 p.m. * Elder training until 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 18
11:30 a.m. * Confirmation Class Kick-Off followed by student retreat at Laurelville Mennonite Conference Center

Are you stressed from the Holidays? CPCBA Has a Solution...Yoga! A New 8 Week Session Begins January 8

Try the new CPCBA Yoga class. The cost is \$80 for an 8 week session; \$10 for walk-in unregistered participants.

The class will be held in the Fellowship Hall Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 p.m.. Rick Miller is the Yoga instructor. You do not have to have prior experience in a yoga class to attend.



We will begin on January 8, 2009. If you have any questions, feel free to call Brenda Mellon at 412 766 7658.

The Fellowship & Evangelism Committee Needs Your Help!

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee would like to invite you to join their committee. They do so much more than just serving cookies and fruit punch.

They build friendships and work together in so many ways. It is indeed a true fellowship. It is how many bonds are build and strengthened between us. Their work is important, but the process is just as meaningful as the outcomes.

Their committee is a loving and warm one, and they welcome you to join them. Fresh ideas and warm hearts are very much desired. They meet monthly, and you can be as involved or not, as you decide.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room. RSVPs to Beth Joyce at 412-635-6151 or bhjhome@msn.com if you are interested or would like more information.

Save the Date for the All Church Retreat Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19, 2009

Put April 18 and 19, 2009 on your calendar for the annual All Church Retreat at the Laurelville Mennonite Retreat Center in Mt. Pleasant. Our presenter will be The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, Associate Professor of Old Testament at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. More information will be in the coming *Revelations*.



January Youth News

Middle School Fall Retreat:

Last month the Middle School youth group went to Ligonier Camp and Conference Center for their Fall Retreat "Stepping Out in Faith." We got to participate in numerous adventure activities including the zip line which is pictured below. After each activity the youth took part in a debrief. During this time they got to discuss how they could apply their experiences to their lives and specifically, how it could help them to take another step forward in their walk with God.



Confirmation and Mentors:

We are looking forward to kicking off the confirmation class on January 18th and 19th with a retreat to Laurelville. If you know of any student who is in eighth grade or higher who are interested in joining the church, please call Mike Mullin at 412-761-1233.

We are also still looking for a few mentors for the confirmands. If you have a love for Jesus Christ that you would like to share with one of our youth and are willing to commit to work with them and to help them through the process of confirmation and beyond then we would love to have you as a Confirmation Mentor.

Adult Education Opportunities for January

The Adult Education subcommittee would like to encourage all adults to participate in Sunday School in the coming year.

The Newspaper Fellowship will begin again as well as a class led by Patrick Abramowich on *Faith and Rationality* and a special Lenten series *Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem*.

All classes begin at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

- January 4: Newspaper Fellowship
- January 11: Newspaper Fellowship
- January 18: Faith and Rationality with Patrick Abramowich - Part I
- January 25: Newspaper Fellowship
- February 1: Newspaper Fellowship
- February 8, 15, 22: Faith and Rationality with Patrick Abramowich - Parts II, III, IV
- March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5: Lenten Series: Pausing on the Road to Jerusalem.

Youth Section:

The youth had a busy December and are looking forward to carrying on that energy into the new year. The Senior High are going to Peek n Peak January 9th and 10th for a ski retreat and are staying in a Condo graciously reserved by congregant Sally Wolfe. Then, on the 12th the youth are signed up to provide a meal for the men at the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter on the North Side. They will also be in rehearsal for the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater scheduled for the beginning of February.

Youth Website:

The Youth Website is in the process of undergoing some changes. The IT committee is working with Mike Mullin to enable him to organize and update the youth web page from his computer. Part of this process will also include adding a calendar to the youth website so anyone in the church can log on to see what the youth are doing at any given time.



CPCBA Organist Barbara McKelway To Play at Heinz Chapel Compline Service Sunday, February 1 at 8:30 p.m.

Barbara McKelway is the guest organist for the Compline service Sunday, February 1 at Heinz Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh campus at 8:30 p.m.

Compline is a devotional service of music and meditation and is the way the ancient church said "Good night." The Heinz Chapel setting makes the service all the more meaningful. There is free on-street parking on Sundays.

Samaritan Counseling Center to offer "Spiritual Direction" as New Service

What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction, a new service being offered by the Samaritan Counseling Center, is an ancient practice in all major world religions. Among Christians, it may be more familiar to Roman Catholics than to Protestants.

Essentially, spiritual direction is a confidential, one-on-one relationship with a person who is trained in the art of helping others become more open to God.

It is a kind of counseling that helps people to discover God's voice, knowing that God wants to show us how to live healthier, more satisfied lives. The focus of Spiritual Direction is to help people become increasingly aware of and responsive to God's presence and activity in all of life; in contrast, the focus of psychological counseling is often on resolving problems.

In spiritual direction we explore questions such as:

- * Who is God and what do I really believe about God?
- * Do my beliefs about God get in the way of my experiencing God?
- * Can I trust God?
- * Where and how do I experience God?
- * How can I cut through my confusion about God to let God guide me to better relationships, a greater sense of purpose, and a healthier way of life?
- * How might God be at work in this situation? What might God be showing me?
- * What is God calling me to do with my life and how does God want me to do it?

On a more practical level, questions explored in a session might be:

- * Why does my prayer life feel so empty?
- * How can God let such terrible things happen?
- * I have a great life, so why am I so unhappy?
- * How can I be less anxious and afraid?

Spiritual direction is for *anyone* who is ready to take the next step in growing spiritually. It assumes that God is present and active in every person's life and that God longs to be in close relationship with us and to meet our deepest needs.

Lynn Holden, a professionally trained spiritual director, offers spiritual direction through the Samaritan Counseling Center. Lynn has a Certificate in Spiritual Formation, a Certificate in the Ministry of Spiritual Direction and a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Chatham University. If you would like to learn more about Spiritual Direction or to schedule an appointment to meet with Lynn, you may contact the Samaritan Counseling Center at 724-352-7117.

CPCBA Member Lynn Evans Makes a Plea for Donations to the Military

Dear Church Family,

I received an e-mail a couple of months ago from a friend of mine whose son, Marshall is serving in Iraq. Here is a portion of what my friend Michele wrote:

Dear Friends,

I spoke with Marshall for the first time Saturday night since his deployment. He said he was well but, the tone of his voice indicated otherwise. This is the third year he has been at war and away from home for the Holidays. He is trying to stay focused and 'stay the course' as well as keeping his men motivated and helping them deal with their separation anxiety as well. He is having difficulty getting supplies for their personal hygiene and asked if I could help him with this issue

Marshall and his younger sister Natalie swam with my son Mike on the Shady Side Academy swim team. After graduating, Marshall went on to Annapolis and a couple of years later Mike and Natalie continued school and swimming together at Boston University.

Last Spring, with Jane Robinet's help and support, her Sunday school class wrote some wonderful letters to Marshall and his team which were attached to boxes of Girl Scout cookies for each of them. Their response was that although they obviously enjoyed the cookies, it was the sharing of the letters from our church children that truly uplifted their spirits.

So I am asking my fellow church members to please act on Michele's request for our brave young men. There will be a big box (thanks to Jody Jackson) to collect items in the hallway by the side entrance. A suggested list of donations is below. The box will remain in the hallway January and hopefully enough will be collected for Marshall and his 40 member team to send out sometime in February.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 412-766-5487.

Thank you,
Lynn Evans

Items needed:

Toothpaste	Q tips
Dental floss	Chap stick
Baby wipes	Shampoo
Body wash	Mach 3 razors
Shaving cream	
Small bottles mouthwash	

Many thanks for your consideration and your continued support of our troops!

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

PastorRev. Dr. Page Creach
Christian Education Director.....Linda Williams
Director of Youth & Young Adult MinistriesMike Mullin
Director of Music/Choir DirectorDavid Anderson
Associate Music Director/OrganistBarbara McKelway
Clerk of Session.....Joyce Grater
TreasurerRoss Dillon
Trustees, President.....Steve Mellon
Deacons, ChairAndy Deen
Junior Church, Coordinator.....Jan Davis
Wooden Ladder PreschoolLarry Skerlong
Financial Secretaries:Barbara Barcoucky
.....Dwight Chrvala
.....Chuck Hamilton
.....Jim Russell
.....Deb Sadowski
Web Masters.....Susan and Marty Houser

Committee Chairs:

Christian Education Clair Cranville
Fellowship & Evangelism..... Beth Joyce
Nominating Committee Jennifer Knuth
Outreach Walt Robertson
Property Andy Kolenda
Stewardship & Finance..... Wendy Herchenroether
Worship Steve Mellon

Deacon Comfort and Joy Contacts

(for meal assistance, transportation, grief support, etc.)
Patti Timpani (412-766-1645) or Daryl Johnson (412-766-0895)

Deacons Visitation Ministry

Ed Stauffer (412-761-0704)

(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. Requests can be made to any Deacon.)

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday—9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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