

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.

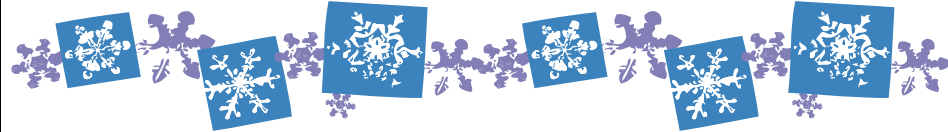
We are led by the Holy Spirit to use our abundant blessings and diverse talents progressively for evangelism, discipleship, stewardship and mission.

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



Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



The Pastor's Pen

- by Pastor Page Creach

"How very good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters live together in unity!"

The officers of the church met together with me after worship a few Sunday's ago. We enjoyed small and large group conversations over a wonderful lunch (thanks to the hospitality gifts of June Weletz). We dreamed of serving all of you and the community without missing a single person in need, ever. We said that the strength of this church was its heart for caring for all of you. We talked about stewardship and how it is money, but more than money. Stewardship is serving God through the church with all that we have to give of ourselves. This is most creative as it involves the whole person, body, mind and spirit. It is inspiring also, to all who are learning to live and work together in unity. I thought about that in terms of the budget, as you will see in the paragraph below.

Pray for this sweet spirit to continue among us. Pray for the vision that the session, deacons, and pastor have to serve you faithfully and with intelligence, energy, and enthusiasm. I hope this is your experience in this sacred place.

The Definition of a Church Budget

The budget of our church is more than a set of figures or a list of expenditures. The budget of our church is actually the Ministries of our church.

- It is the pastor preaching, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, winning the lost.
 - It is a strategy of evangelism to proclaim Christ to our community.
 - It is the Sunday School teaching the Word of God to the multitudes.
 - It is Christian literature in the hands of every member.
 - It is a Christian training to equip the members to do the ministries of the church.
 - It is the musical instruments and choir singing to the glory of God. It is the church building standing as hope and light in the midst of a dark world. It is mission work carrying the Good News of the Gospels around the world.
 - It is Christian hospitals, schools, clinics, food centers, and housing, for children, veterans, and the aged.
- Most of all the budget of ministries in our church is the total expression of our love for Christ, our compassion for others.

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Sunday Mornings March 8 and 15, from 9:30-10:15 am, in the chapel

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND VISITORS TO EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP AT CPCBA



If you are interested in becoming a member of Community Presbyterian Church of BenAvon, you are invited and encouraged to come to two classes on Sunday mornings. March 8 and 15, 9:30-10:15, IN THE CHAPEL. (The chapel is located upstairs at the back of the u-shaped corridor, opposite from the children and youth ministers' offices.) We will discuss the life of the church and what it means to be a Presbyterian. Most of all, we will get to know you more personally. If you chose to join us, we will take your picture and welcome you into the church officially on March 15 in worship (10:30)

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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
 Administrative Assistant.....
 Clerk of Session.....Joyce Grater
 TreasurerRoss Dillon
 Trustees, President.....Steve Mellon
 Deacons, Chair.....Herb McLuckie
 Junior Church, Coordinator.....Jan Davis
 Wooden Ladder PreschoolLarry Skerlong
 Financial Secretaries:Barbara Barcosky
Dwight Chrvala
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 Jan Frisch
 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.)
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

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: cpcba@verizon.net † Web site: www.cpcba.com
Chapel is open daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm for prayer and meditation.

Phone: (412) 761-1233/766-1800 Fax: (412) 766-1801 E-mail: cpcba@verizon.net Web site: www.cpcba.com

February Youth News

By Mike Mullin,
Youth Director



Sunday School:

Don't forget that each Sunday, from 9:15-10:15, 6th through 8th graders meet in the youth room and 9th through 12th graders meet in Mike Mullin's office for Sunday School. The middle school just started a new curriculum on the Old Testament prophets where each week they focus on a new character from the Old Testament to learn about how s/he is a cornerstone in the growth and development of Christianity and our faith. The senior high is also starting a new curriculum written by someone very close to our congregation and our Sunday School class. The senior high chose to start studying the Psalms in Sunday School and we found out that Jerome Creach (Adair's dad) wrote a study on the Psalms for the older youth/young adult age group. As a result, we have been studying the Psalms as we work our way through his book, doing one chapter a week.

Ski Retreat Update:

6 members of the Senior High went on a retreat to Peek 'n Peak in the beginning of January and stayed in a cabin graciously reserved by congregant Sally Wolfe. The Friday we left there were winter storm warnings in effect and there was some worry about whether we could make it to Peek 'n Peak (which is just over the border north-east of Erie in New York) or not. Well, we beat the weather on Friday and had a great day skiing and snowboarding and snow tubing on Saturday. Adam Vangorder was the only one who had ever really skied before so he was a great help encouraging the rest of us and helping to return us to our feet. Saturday afternoon some of the youth hung out at Sally's house and tried to go sledding, which didn't work out too well because the snow was more than a foot deep. During our weekend we also had time to gather together as a group and think deeply about what we are confessing when we recite the Lord's prayer and to think more about what it means to live missionally. The retreat was a great success and there was talk of trying to make it an annual event.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

for March Revelations
is
February 15



Confirmation and Mentors:

This year we are excited to have 15 youth in our Confirmation class: Tad Abramowich, Shelby Bell, Hanna Bernauer, Adair Creach, Jared Cuteri, Ali Cuteri, Olivia Davis, Victor DeSimone, Catherine Dismukes, Kristine Houser, Jesse Joyce, Christian Kramer, Nathan Pool, Josh Priestley, and Ryan Sheffler. We ask the congregation to hold these confirmands and the confirmation process up in prayer daily. Pray that God will be present in the lives of all those involved and that Jesus will be proclaimed through every lesson, activity, and discussion.

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Friday February 13th at 6:00 pm the youth will be putting on a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater entitled *The Fifth Gospel*. This play involves the discovery of some ancient and startling scriptures from the caves of Qumram by Dr. Stanley Rollingstone. The good doctor is offering to sell these to some religious leaders from around the world. The play will be performed in two acts with dinner served in between. After the play is complete there will be a mystery that needs to be solved. It will be your job as the audience to solve the mystery. Everyone will be sitting at round tables for the duration of the evening, this table will be your team. Following the play the actors will walk around the tables and will have clues that your table can purchase for a dollar. When a table thinks they have solved the crime they will turn in their solution to the detective. Once all of the solutions have been turned in, the detective will present the solution and the table which turned in the correct solution the soonest will receive a prize. There will be open seating starting at 5:30 pm and a suggested donation of \$10 per adult for dinner and the show.



Adult Education Opportunities for February

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.

- 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*. In addition, Camp Crestfield is offering several retreats and educational opportunities which offer respite from our daily routines, renew our devotion to God and extend an opportunity for fellowship. Here are a few programs to awaken your interest.

Art and History in Pittsburgh: Join Dr. Andrew Purvis as we discover Pittsburgh's signature landmarks, including the Carnegie Museum of Art and Natural History, the Heinz History Center and the Andy Warhol Museum. Opportunities to attend cultural events, plays and/or symphonies will be scheduled as well. April 26-30, 2009. Cost is \$495/double occupancy, 550 single occupancy. For more information: www.way-points.com.

Quilter's Retreat: Join Brenda Barnes as the teacher and retreat leader as we study the Bible, worship, sewing, enjoy Crestfield activities like hayrides, s'mores, low ropes challenge course, and walking, fellowship, and a quilting project will be a part of this fun-packed weekend! The project will be a 72" x 72" quilt made using either a "chain piecing" technique, or a "quick piecing" technique. If you don't know those techniques, don't worry! Brenda will teach us!! The project can be done by hand or machine sewing and may be completed during the retreat. If you chose you can bring your own project to work on. February 20-22, 2009. Cost is \$ 110.00 per person with double occupancy; Scott Lodge additional night per person is \$35.00, with Brunch included; Main Lodge, linens NOT included in fee, is \$80.00 per person with double occupancy; Main Lodge additional night, with brunch included, is \$25.00 per person. For more information: www.crestfield.net.

Finance Committee Update



By Wendy Herchenroether,
Finance Committee Chair

The recent financial crisis in worldwide markets has had far-reaching effects on individuals and organizations, including CPCBA. We experienced a significant decline in the value of our Endowment, which fell from a balance of \$1,024,799 on 12/31/07 to a year-end 2008 value of \$757,644. Fortunately, there existed a large enough cash balance to accommodate the year-end transfer needed to balance our operations budget so that no securities had to be sold in a negative market environment. The financial crisis has also had an impact on pledges for 2009, which at a total of \$346,673 are significantly less than in 2008.

There is good news in the midst of the challenging financial situation. First, 2008 *actual* giving was right on the mark, fulfilling the total pledged amount almost to the dollar. We are grateful for the commitment demonstrated by our congregation in giving the amount that had been pledged. Second, expenses for the year were significantly under budget, primarily due to personnel changes throughout the year but also because spending was held to, or under, budgeted amounts. The result is that, although the 2008 investment transfer to balance our books was originally projected to be \$102,572, it will actually be \$77,315. While the Finance Committee is working hard to bring this number down in future years, we are still pleased to report that the 2008 amount turned out to be better than expected.

As we move forward into 2009, please know how very important your tithes and offerings are to the ongoing work of this church. If you have already pledged for 2009 and are honoring your commitment, we thank you. If you have not, please prayerfully consider the matter and make your financial promise to this church and to God. This year, more than ever, the giving of each member is crucial to bringing CPCBA toward a healthier fiscal position so that we can focus on God's purpose for us as a church.

This is a "must read" !!



**THOUGHTS
FROM THE
BALCONY**

Dear CPCBA Friends,

It is a freezing, sunny day at the end of 10 days on the staff of CPCBA and I find that I am encouraged, challenged, excited, overwhelmed and grateful to be serving among you. It is a call from God through you that I was eager to accept when the offer came. I look forward to our time together as we journey along the discipleship road, growing in faith and having lots of fun.

I come to you with a fair amount of Christian Education background but you, as is true of all congregations, are unique in tradition and ways of serving so our relationship will be a learning experience for both of us. I expect to watch and learn as you worship, study and reach out. I expect that you will notice a few changes in the ways tasks are accomplished by me. In the end we will figure out how we best do ministry together and that's a good thing.

One of the major differences will be because I am a part time employee and have just 25 hours a week to give. This will mean that we must discern the best way for me to use those hours. Teamwork immediately comes to mind! Teams of teachers, teams of planners, teams of workers! Using the best talents and gifts of this congregation for the work of Jesus Christ and the glory of God has a nice ring to it.

At this new beginning, I would ask you to prayerfully consider what God is asking you to be and do this year. Maybe it is something you have never done before. Maybe it is something you have thought you would like to do but have hesitated. Maybe your call is to get rid of a few responsibilities and give yourself a break. Who knows! In prayer we can discover many things. I urge you to give it a try if you have not already done so.

I look forward to meeting those I've not met yet and greeting those I have. I will be at worship most every Sunday and ask your forgiveness while I stumble a little but eventually learn your names. I will likely call on a number of you at one time or another to be involved in the work of Christian Education and would welcome conversations about what your interests/talents are and what you feel called to do.

Blessings,
LINDA WILLIAMS

Special Notice

February 15: Luncheon for Session and Deacon members after worship in Fellowship Hall Noon – 1:30 pm

February 22 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

ONE SERVICE at 10:30 am only

**SESSION
CORNER**

by Joyce Grater
Clerk of Session

On January 11 we had Session training with Page. Thank you, Page. We all found it very helpful for our on-going Session responsibilities.

In February the Session and Deacons will be having a joint luncheon provided by F & E, so that we can get to know one another better – many new people- as we go forward.

Please make note that February 22 will be our Congregational Meeting following the 10:30 service. The Annual Report will be mailed out before the meeting.

Finally, I want to thank Peter Herchenroether for helping me transition to the Clerk role. He was an amazing Clerk of Session and I am grateful for his service to our church. I look forward to working with Page, Session, and all church members during the next three years. I am honored and humbled to have been asked to serve CPCBA.

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!



Wooden Ladder Preschool



Wooden Ladder Preschool, a program of the Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon, is now registering students for the 2009-2010 school year.

Wooden Ladder Preschool accepts children ages 18 months to 5 years.

The following classes are offered:

- Wooden Ladder Tots 18 - 24 months
- Wooden Ladder 1 24 - 36 months
- Wooden Ladder 2 3 - 4 years
- Wooden Ladder 3 4 - 5 years

If interested in enrolling a child for this year 2008-2009 (there are some openings available in W.L.2, and W.L.3) or registering for next year 2009-2010 please contact Louise Sonnet, Program Director at (412) 761-9195 for more information.

You're Invited to a Baby Shower !!

The East End Cooperative Ministry's Food Pantry is serving an ever increasing number of young families with infants and small children. During our annual Have a Heart for Hunger Campaign, we are holding a "Baby Shower". We will be collecting assorted items for families who need our help.

Please bring donations to the Soup Kitchen Dining Room—East Liberty Presbyterian Church (enter on South Whitfield Street)

Saturday, February 28

Anytime between 11:00am—2:00pm to drop off your gifts and enjoy the "Baby Shower."

Items we are "registering" for:

Diapers—all sizes

Wipes

Formula — regular and soy

Onesies—all sizes

Plastic bottles

Desitin, A&D Ointment & Butt Paste

Baby soap & Shampoo

Newborn sleepers.

Address questions to Suzan at 412-361-5549 X411.