

# Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



## Building on the Promises

Capital Campaign 2005-2008

### Major Capital Campaign Concludes Saturday, April 30 With a Catered Dinner and Free Concert Dinner is 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall; Concert at 7:30 in the Sanctuary

Popular Christian recording artist, Tom Franzak, will present a free concert at the church on Saturday evening, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Tom brings his own blend of music, ministry, humor and humanity to teens, young adults, and the young-at-heart.

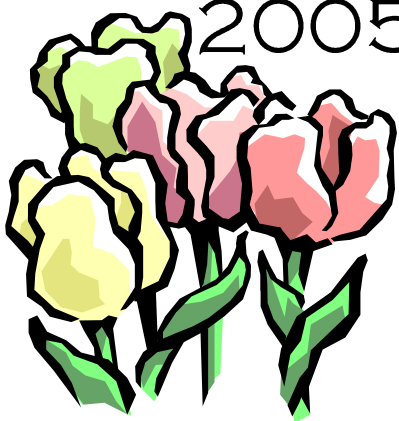
The heart of Tom's musical mission is to identify and share the vision, the values, and the challenges facing the followers of Jesus Christ today. Tom's own story and his response to Christ motivate his desire to use his musical talents to help others get in touch with their own experience of God and Christ's call to discipleship.

Tom has performed before several million people during his 20 years as a Christian pop recording artist. He has released five recordings, and his songs have been heard on Christian radio stations coast to coast.

He was originally trained in the areas of youth and young adult ministry, and has also worked in music publishing. He lives in Bethel Park with his wife, Rene, and their three children, T. J., Lucy, and Daniel.

A gourmet supper precedes the concert at 6:30 p.m. It's a family affair! The evening will conclude with dessert at 8:45 p.m. Bring a friend to help celebrate success in our *Building on the Promises* Campaign.

# APRIL 2005



### Wooden Ladder Preschool to Host Art Auction on Wooden Ladder Sunday—April 10, 2005 To Raise Funds for Youth Mission Trip to Tennessee

At the Fellowship Hour following the Wooden Ladder Sunday worship service, an auction will be held for artwork produced by the Wooden Ladder Preschool Students.

Proceeds will be used to purchase art supplies for the Senior High Youth Group to take on their summer mission trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Youth Group will be running a summer Vacation Bible School the first week of July, as well as repairing homes of widows and single mothers that are in need of assistance.

Please plan to stay for the Fellowship Hour and bid generously to help these Preschool Students in their effort to add their contribution to the mission of our own high school youth.



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

# My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Brent Dugan

***“For in Christ, every one of God’s promises is a ‘Yes.’” -2 Corinthians 1:20***

Growing up in rural Erie County our family had animals. We had a milk cow, a beef, some chickens and rabbits, and two pigs. We also had two dogs—“Sparky” and “Penny,” and some cats. Still, I begged for a pony.

“If we get a pony, I’ll take care of it. I’ll also take care of the other animals and clean my room and take out the garbage and be good and do well in school. Oh, please, please, can I have a pony?”

I got a pony. I named him “Champion,” the name of the horse of my cowboy hero, Gene Autrey.

My parents, being who they were, made me live up to my promises. And, for the most part, I did. Not because I wanted to keep my part of the covenant, it was only because I feared my parents.

God always keeps his promises. As Psalm 121 says: “The God of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.” And the older I get, the easier it seems to fulfill my promises . . . and to lean on his.

As far back as 1860—Can you believe it! . . . the Civil War was beginning—people in our community . . . at a little Presbyterian Church . . . were making promises. They were promising to serve their Lord Jesus Christ, uphold his church, and make sacrifices to build a church in this little log cabin farming neighborhood along the Ohio River.

Since then, many promises have been made: churches were built . . . and kept up. A mission had been established. Men and women were called into the ministry and sent onto mission fields.

Today, in 2005, we are asking for promises to maintain a Christian witness here in Ben Avon, maintaining our beautiful building and our grounds. Building on the Promises is our campaign theme—and what a wonderful theme it is. God’s promises—“that are always a Yes”—our forebears promises that provided us with facilities for nurture, and our promises for moving into God’s future right here . . . along the Ohio River . . . upon a hill . . . a bright beacon to a neighborhood . . . and a call to mission world-wide.

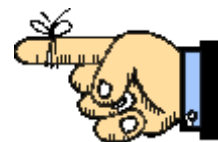
Join me in making a pledge to the Capital Campaign. I live on promises. I’ve made my pledge. Have you?

## Please Note:

**There will be NO 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, April 3.**

Half the congregation will be on retreat at Camp Crestfield on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are 90 people registered—the highest number of people registered for a retreat in our history! But there will still be worship at the church that day at 10:30 a.m.

There will be NO 8:30 service on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 8:30 service of the Lord’s Supper will resume on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>.



## The Vast Supper is Back!

**Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. as the new and improved CPCBA monthly Fellowship dinner makes its return.

The Fellowship & Evangelism Committee will feed your belly full for a small donation. Then sit back and enjoy a video presentation of NASA astronaut and Emsworth native, Mike Fink’s visit to Avonworth School.

Bring a neighbor or friend to share in the fun—and we will see you there!

## Reminder!

**CPCBA is Still Looking for Pictures of CPCBA Events**

Betty Richardson and Gene McBride are co-chairing a PHOTO ARCHIVES project. If you have any pictures you would like to donate, please leave them at the church office or place in the special photo box on the desk in the Narthex.

If your photos are the only copies you have, they can be scanned and returned to you. Simply mark the envelope with your request.



## New Member Exploration Seminar

**Saturdays April 9 and 16; 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

If you have been worshiping with the Community Church congregation, have found a warm welcome here, have been lifted up by the Gospel message we preach and, if you are longing to be a part of God’s family, mark your calendar for April 9 and 16.

On two consecutive Saturday mornings, gather with the pastor, staff and church officers to hear the story of our faith, how we govern our church life, our mission, our stewardship and programs. Child care is provided.

Phone the church office at 412 761-1233 or talk to the pastor for details.



## Your Mission Dollars at Work in the World

by Joyce Grater, Outreach Committee Chair

### Spring Cleaning Shower for Hearth! Supplies will be collected by the Outreach Committee during the month of May

Since we will be collecting basic cleaning supplies for HEARTH during May for their Spring Cleaning Shower, I thought it would be appropriate to



Spring Cleaning

spotlight this organization for our members who may not be aware that this is one of CPCBA's locally sponsored missions.

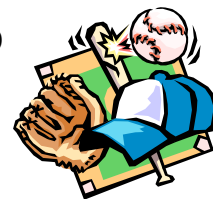
HEARTH is an acronym for Homelessness Ends with Advocacy, Resources, Training, and Housing. The mission of HEARTH is to create a continuum of care that empowers families to become self-sufficient, independent, and adequately housed.

HEARTH is a unique program that offers transitional housing and support to homeless and displaced women and children. The program focus is to provide necessary support for families that enables the mother to complete an educational or training program leading to economic self-sufficiency. Mothers also attend life skill classes that focus on development in the areas of communications, budgeting, parenting, stress management, and problem solving

The Spring Cleaning Shower will be held on May 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Benedictine Place cafeteria. If anyone is interested in attending the shower, let me know (412-734-2884). Here is a partial list of supplies that are needed: no wax floor cleaner, comet, 409, furniture polish, window cleaner, oven cleaner, tub and tile cleaner, dishwashing liquid (no dishwashers), spot remover, laundry detergent, fabric softener, bleach, dryer sheets, Brillo pads, buckets, mops, brooms trash bags, sponges, and paper towels. Look for more information in the Sunday bulletins in April.

### Washington Wild Things Outing Friday, June 10th—Cost: \$8 per ticket

The Fellowship and Evangelism Committee has purchased a block of 40 tickets for Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Wild Things of the Frontier League will be taking on arch rivals The Florence Freedom.



The game starts at 7:05 p.m. and the price of tickets are a bargain at \$8.00 a piece.

If you have never experienced minor league ball then this is a must-see event. The group that attended the game last year had a wonderful time.

A sign up list will be posted on the Fellowship & Evangelism bulletin board, so sign up early! Last year's event was a sell out!

Don't forget that this is an excellent opportunity to invite your neighbor! Mark your calendar now! More information is available by calling Jeff Houser Sr. at 412-761-1379.



### Junior Choir Members Participated in Children's Choir Festival Saturday March 5 at St. Alexis Church

Ten Junior Choir members enjoyed participating in the 11th Annual Children's Choir Festival on March 5 at St. Alexis Church in Wexford.

Sponsored by the Western PA Chapter of the Choristers Guild, the boys and girls worked hard perfecting music they had learned as well as enjoying lunch and a couple breaks. Their clinician for the day was Christine Jordanoff, director of the Pittsburgh Children's Festival Chorus. A mini-concert at 3:00 let parents and friends know how well they learned their music. It was beautiful.

Those attending were Tad Abramowich, Peter Barcoucky, Ben Clegg, Victor De Simone, Emily Fabyanic, Angie Hedglin, Kristine Houser, Chloe Kroen, Nadia Kunkle and Sarah Miller.



### A Ministry of Flowers

by Deacon Marty Houser

Where have all the flowers gone? Or, at least, where do the flowers we see in church go? Every Sunday the Sanctuary is brightened by the presence of beautiful flowers decorating the altar. These flowers are given by members of the congregation via the good efforts of the Flower Committee, and often the families or individuals who donate the flowers take them home.

However, if the flowers are not taken by their donors, the deacons are responsible for ensuring that the flowers find a needful person who will appreciate them. They are often taken to CPCBA members who cannot attend services or may be in a care facility. Incoming deacon Melinda Gorman is coordinating the deacon's flower delivery efforts this year.

So the flowers become a small ministry to the greater circle of CPCBA that we don't see every Sunday morning, and offer a reminder of the beauty we enjoy in our church fellowship.

**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



**Thank you Note - CPCBA Member Liz Grater to Serve in Zambian Refugee Camp  
Letter of Thanks for Support Sent to Entire Congregation**

Dear Friends,

This summer I will be participating in the FORGE program (Facilitating Opportunities for Refugee Growth and Empowerment) whereby I and a group of other college students will be working in Zambian refugee camps. FORGE is a grassroots, non-profit organization started by students and sponsored by the United Nations that is only in its second year of operation but has already met with tremendous success. Each FORGE ambassador must design his or her own microproject which is to be sustained by the refugee community after our departure.

As a volunteer for the program I am required to raise the money to implement my microproject dealing with women's empowerment and initiating a peer mentoring program. To this end, the Outreach Committee provided me with a very generous gift of \$500. While I send them my most generous thanks, I want now to extend those thanks to all of you as a community. You are the strength and success behind this church without which I would not be the person that I am today.

It is sometimes strange for me to think that I am going to Africa to begin my adult life when it does not seem so

long ago that I was reading passages in Sunday School or running down the aisle for Time With the Children.

I truly have grown up in this church, and it and the community have given me the solid spiritual ground upon which I now stand. It was through CPCBA that I first realized the value of volunteering my time during Vacation Bible School every summer or serving dinner at the men's shelter. It was my participation in youth group during high school that helped me build and shape my own beliefs while learning how I could be a mentor for those younger than me. And it is now because of this church community that I will be able to embark on a very serious project of service but also a life of service.

For those of you who taught me lessons in Sunday School as a child and who have seen me grow and nurtured me along the way, I send my sincerest thanks. This church and my faith have brought me success and fulfillment and have enabled me to now enter the world so as to help and serve others. I could not have done it without this community. Thank you and God bless.

Very Sincerely,  
Liz Grater