

Revelations

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon ~ Pittsburgh, PA 15202



**Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon to Sponsor
Third Annual Community Christmas Festival—"Joy to the World"
Sunday, December 11—6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

As hectic as your life may be, the wonder of miracles is not gone. There is a way to recapture the hope as you gaze like shepherds upon the live Nativity and sing like angels with the joy of Christmas carols.

This world is so full of busy choices this Christmas season, we want to offer you this choice of 2 hours to slow your pace and enjoy the world that Jesus came to save. Huddle together around a fire barrel, relax in a pew and let the songs of angels wash over you, let your children touch a warm wooly piece of the Nativity, break pumpkin bread together with your friends and remember that that beautiful Nativity scene was created with YOU in mind.

Join together for this one purpose; to remember the birth of Christ and the overwhelming joy that the love of God brings. Let it lift your soul and bring you joy.

On December 11th from 6:00-8:00 pm our church will host an event that brings the community together to celebrate the old, old story. We want to throw our arms and doors wide open to our community this holy holiday season, so invite your friends, tell the neighbors and gather together for this large as life, memorable festival.

Our annual **Live Nativity** will appear on the front lawn, complete with animals, the holy family, shepherds, angels and wise people. Recapture that spirit of joy at the birth of the new baby Jesus, as you gaze like shepherds upon the live Nativity

By then you'll be a bit chilled, and maybe a tad hungry... so stop by the tent on the front lawn and warm your hands over the fire barrels and partake of the **Christmas cookies and cocoa** provided by the Fellowship and Evangelism Committee.

Move into the Sanctuary to warm your hearts with the songs of season as presented by the **Sewickley Academy Chamber Singers and String Quartet**. Let it remind you of the glory of the angel's music on that first joyful Christmas.

But don't stop there, because you never know what treats may await you when you tour the display of **Joy to the World** in the Fellowship Hall. Dozens of special exhibits in Fellowship Hall will highlight Christmas family traditions from around the world—there may even be food samples found at some of these exhibits.)

The hope is not gone, the wonder is ever present. JOY has come into the world. Remember it, keep it in your heart and share it always.

As usual, this is a *free* Community Event, so bring all your kids, your friends and your neighbors along to join in the celebration of the birth of our Lord.



And that's not all!



My View on Church Avenue

by Pastor Brent Dugan

At one point in the Broadway show, *Mame*, things are tough for Mame, her nephew, Patrick, and the shrinking wallflower, Agnes Gooch. In her usual flamboyant, we-can-rise-above-this way, Auntie Mame declares that though, out of season, “we need a little Christmas.” And, so, they begin singing with “candles in the windows, carols on the spinet.”

Our church needs a little Christmas. We’ve had a tough year of untimely and tragic deaths and critical health concerns. Not to mention that we have a soldier in Iraq, individuals in crisis and transition, and families in upheaval. We need a little Christmas now!

With natural catastrophes, ongoing war, political unrest, and famine in Malawi, our nation and our world need a little Christmas now.

Well, here it is . . . our Advent and Christmas theme based on a carol . . . “*Joy to the World.*” The promise of a child born in a manger can truly bring joy to our world and joy to us this season.

As we prepare to celebrate this holy and festive season, let us be generous in sharing our blessings with others. Let’s turn off the secular “Christmas Machine” and turn on the true spirit of love, redemption, and self-sacrifice, remembering a line from the carol:

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found.*

Be in church this season. Worship the God who loves the world so much he gave his only Son. Invite others to share the Joy!

Elder Woody Cunningham to Lead Adult Sunday School on *The Gospel According to Moses*

Elder Woody Cunningham will be leading an Adult Sunday School class in the conference room upstairs on the book *The Gospel According to Moses—What my Jewish friends taught me about Jesus.*

Join him at Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and participate in this study.



CPCBA Financial Update Through October

By John Buchanan, Chair
Stewardship & Finance Committee

Here is our current financial status through October 2005.

	Current Month <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Actual</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
Giving	\$39,496	\$343,193	\$344,727
Expenses	<u>31,624</u>	<u>363,497</u>	<u>358,478</u>
Difference	\$ <u>7,872</u>	\$ <u>(20,304)</u>	\$ <u>(13,751)</u>

Total Current Funds Balance: \$54,045

As you can see, we are about \$6,500 behind our projections for the year. That is primarily because of higher than expected expenses to operate and maintain our building. Hopefully, some of the capital campaign projects will help this situation in future years.

All in all, we are having a good year financially.

Session Approves Use of Bequest to Begin Funding of the Pentecost Fund

-by John Buchanan

A few months ago, you may have read in *Revelations* that your Session established The Pentecost Fund. The purpose of this fund is to allow CPCBA members to financially support other members in time of financial need. This process worked for a small number of members in 2005.

Your Session has now increased The Pentecost Fund by \$4000. This was made possible by a recent bequest from the estate of Edna Baxter, a member of CPCBA many years ago. This funding will give the pastor some discretionary flexibility (up to \$1,000) to help members in urgent financial need. Of course, members are still encouraged to give to the fund so that it can continue to serve as the conduit to assist other CPCBA members in need.



Fellowship & Evangelism Committee Has a Gift Suggestion for Christmas

Don’t know what to give a family member or friend? The Fellowship & Evangelism committee has a wonderful suggestion for you!

How about giving a gift certificate to the CPCBA Family Retreat at Camp Crestfield on March 31-April 2, 2006? For more information, contact Nancy Hamilton at 724-935-1754.



by Deacon Marty Houser

Share in Christmas at CPCBA

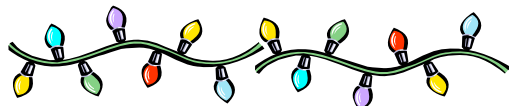
Stepping into the Dollar Store a day or two after Halloween, I was surprised to see that the Halloween decor and bric-a-brac was gone, replaced, seemingly overnight, by the first of the Christmas decor and bric-a-brac.

Now it's nearly December and we're in the heart of shopping season. Well, I'll admit I enjoy browsing for Christmas gifts more than some - listening to blandified Christmas music (once a year I can even enjoy the one where the cats meow through "Jingle Bells"), checking out the holiday displays, taking my kids to the Christmas train at the mall.

But if you're like me you probably need a break to focus on the Christmas you don't plug in, the Christmas that brings salvation to the world and not just the retail industry's bottom line. So if you're looking for some spiritual respite and real Christmas spirit and fun, the deacons would like to invite you - and encourage you to invite your neighbors - to CPCBA's upcoming Christmas events:

- The Christmas Festival and live Nativity are on Dec. 11 from 6 - 8. This is a fun family event, with music, singing, cookies, hot chocolate from the Fellowship and Evangelism committee, and the youth portraying the characters from the Nativity story (and some live sheep, goats, possibly apocryphal llama, and sometimes a real baby in the role of Jesus).
- On Sunday, December 18th, the children's Christmas Pageant takes place, and the deacons are providing a Fellowship Hour following the 10:30 service.
- Join us for an early Christmas cookie and a chance to say hello to your neighbors at CPCBA.
- As we enter the new year, the deacons will be sponsoring a dinner on January 8th. There will be plenty of fellowship and fun to celebrate as a family of faith.
- There are two services on Christmas Eve: a family-oriented service at 7:00 p.m. and the traditional candle lighting service at 9:00 p.m.
- And of course we hope to see you at the services on Christmas Day, which falls on a Sunday this year. (There will only be one service at 10:30 a.m.)

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



"Come In Out of the Cold" CPCBA Participates in the Presbyterian Media Mission's Evangelistic Program

You'll begin seeing spots on TV, hear messages on the radio, and see ads in newspapers for Presbyterian Media Mission's Christmas evangelism emphasis.

Sunday, December 11th is the day Presbyterian congregations are being asked to encourage their members to bring friends and neighbors to church with them.

In addition to a special service of music that morning, Community Church will offer its annual Community Christmas Festival from 6:00 – 8:00 that evening. Bring a friend or neighbor . . . *in out of the cold.*

We need every member to do two things to make this Sunday a success for Jesus Christ.

1. Invite friends, neighbors and relatives to come to church with you that day, and
2. Participate in the celebration by:
 - a. Singing in the choir now through Christmas Eve
 - b. Setting up a nationality booth in Fellowship Hall
 - c. Bringing a tin of cookies for the festival
 - d. Serving as an official festival greeter
 - e. Assisting with costuming of youth for the festival live nativity
 - f. Assisting with costuming of children on December 18th for the Christmas Pageant
 - g. Assisting with festival set-up and clean-up
 - h. Assisting with 8:30 service communion preparation
 - i. Doing anything else we haven't thought of . . . Just tell us!

Please phone Festival Coordinator, Gail and John Buchanan (412-734-2050) to offer your services. Let's make "*Joy to the World*" 2005 a huge success!

Session to Recognize Retiring Elders and Celebrate Nuptials at a Dinner on December 20

There will be a minimum of business as the Church Session celebrates on December 20th with spouses and friends the nuptials of two of its members over the last year, and recognizes the service of the retiring elders who have served their full terms.

Elder Donald "Pack" Bryan married Gayle Bauer on January 7th, 2005 and Elder Maurice Cohill married Anne Mulaney on November 12th, 2005. Our prayers and best wishes are with both couples.

The retiring Session class will be recognized—John Buchanan, Al Cuteri, Jane DeSimone, Joyce Grater, Jeff Houser, and Linda Root. Newly-elected elders and their spouses are also invited to the festivities to be held in the fellowship hall for dinner that evening.

Joy to the World Christmas Festival to Feature Fair Trade Shops from World Vision And Ten Thousand Villages

You'll thrill to the gift selection of art, craft and color from Squirrel Hill's fair-trade boutique, *Ten Thousand Villages*, which supports artisans and crafts-people from the developing world. Pittsburgh Presbytery has been involved with the project since its inception several years ago. You'll be able to choose from a sample of the shop's gift items at the festival thanks to Jody Jackson and Carolyn Mead.

Now, how would you like a goat for Christmas? A live one! Or how about a chicken? Could you use a garden hoe? Some building blocks for the foundation of your two-room house?

These are some of the items you can purchase to honor the friend or family member "who has everything" this Christmas. You can purchase anything from a farm animal to garden tools to a school kit to a modest house for people in developing countries.

Our friend, Jeanne Hungerman, director of the Pittsburgh office of *World Vision* will join us with a variety of meaningful gift opportunities. World Vision is the Christian organization through which 30 members of CPCBA are sponsoring children in Malawi.

A Hot Dog For Breakfast! The Downtown Discussion Group Moves Its Meetings to the Hot Dogma Restaurant Tuesday, December 6—7:30 a.m.

Work downtown? Join a small group of your church friends on the First Tuesday of each month, 7:30 a.m. at the *Hot Dogma Shop*. This little restaurant run by seminary students is at the rear of Trinity Cathedral on Oliver Avenue.

On Tuesday, December 6th, the group will conclude its study of 1 Corinthians. On Tuesday, January 3rd, they will begin an exciting new study of Luke's Gospel. How about making First Tuesday a New Year's resolution? And, yes, you can get a breakfast sandwich and a cup of fresh-brewed coffee . . . back to the office by 9:00.

Silver Vase Received from the Nelson Estate in Memory of Tom and Jane Nelson

The flower committee has received a beautiful silver fluted vase from the Nelson estate. It is engraved across the base: "To the glory of God and in memory of Jane and Tom Nelson - April, 2005"

We thank the sons of Jane and Tom for this wonderful memorial to their beloved parents.

Wooden Ladder Pre-School Open House December 8—6:00-8:00 p.m.

Come and share the warmth and excitement of the children of our neighborhood and their families at an Open House on December 8th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. What a great opportunity to meet the young families of our community and invite them to the church's seasonal events and services!



Additional opportunities present themselves on the mornings of December 21 and 22 with the Wooden Ladder children's pageants and parents' receptions.

Let's celebrate and take advantage of the hospitality of Community Church as we support the work of our Wooden Ladder Preschool.



Lee and I cannot thank everyone enough for the cards, best wishes, and especially your prayers during my recent surgery and recovery. CPCBA is simply the warmest, most caring congregation that we have ever been part of.

Thank you so much.
Lee and Ross Dillon



Many thanks to everyone for your prayers, your love, and get-well wishes while I've been laid up. It helped Dot and I to get through this bump in the road. We look forward to being back at church when my power chair arrives. (It's taken too long.) Special kudos to Wednesday Prayer Group.

Love Tex and Dot Wendt
Faith and Trust in God reap many rewards.

Flower Committee Still Has Openings for Memorial Flowers

The flower committee has a number of Sundays which are open for memorials. If you would like to have memorial flowers in the sanctuary, please call Mary Susan Anderson at the church office at 412-761-1233. She can advise you as to what dates remain open and will help you with the text to be printed in the bulletin.

Arrangements are \$35 each. Please be sure to write "flower fund" in the memo line of your check and either mail it to the church or simply place it in the offering plate..



Our Family News

New Members

The following people were taken into membership on Sunday, November 6. Look for their bios in next month's issue of *Revelations*.

KEN AND GAIL BERNAUER
23 Banbury Lane
Pittsburgh, Pa 15202
724-272-1423

WALT AND LISA CRONIN
11 Lynfield Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-761-2328

PATRICK FINK
6941 Prospect Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-766-4471

KATHY HOUSER
438 Orchard Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-761-1379

MAUREEN KOWALSKI
203 Richbarn Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-969-3706

KEN AND LISA KROEN
20 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-761-2108

AMANDA KROEN
20 Center Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-761-2108

ROBERT NADIN
10565 Connor Court
Wexford, PA 15090
724-935-2246

DEB SADOWSKI
7435 Church Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-7415-1127



Address Updates

MARTY LOUDEN
Windsor Place
1 Windsor Way—Room 322
Pittsburgh, PA 15229
412-459-0184

PAULINE AND TERRY TOMPKINS
4747 Rail Ct. SW
Shallotte, NC 28470

Deaths

JOSEPH MAGUIRE, SR.
November 4, 2005

Wedding

**MAURICE COHILL AND
ANNE MULANEY**
November 12, 2005

Baptism

HANNAH CAROL, daughter of
Bill and Diane Lichauer
November 13, 2005

And our little children shall lead us...

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 18th at 10:30 am

You are invited to join together with your church family as our children share the story of how joy came to the world as a little baby, the Christ Child.

On this special Sunday, our children lead us on a journey celebrating God's promises and the gift of hope and joy the baby Jesus brings.

As the service is simple and creative, **all children will have an opportunity to be involved that morning. No previous experience required. If you have guests, bring them! No one will be left out.**

HOWEVER...If your child and/or guests would like to be involved in the service, they DO need to BE AT THE CHURCH BY 9:00 am.—HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



Please Note: Christmas is on a Sunday, so there is no Sunday School on this day. Enjoy your time with friends and family. Read the Christmas story from your Bible! A Blessed Christmas to you all.

Library Initiates Wish List on Amazon.com - Copy Available in the Narthex as well

In case anyone needs reminding, CPCBA does indeed have a library! Over the past several months, we have reconciled the collection with a newly computerized index and removed obsolete books or titles not consistent with the mission of the library. Three versions of the updated catalog are now available on the check-out desk in the library, sorted by title, author and subject.



Now that the hard work of whipping the collection back into shape is nearly finished, we are initiating a drive to fill some gaps in our holdings. Beginning this month, the CPCBA librarian will post a "wish list" of needed or desired books to add to our collection. The list will manifest itself in several ways.

First, a printed list will be available in the Narthex, second, the list can be emailed upon request and last, but not least, a wish list will be posted on Amazon.com. Donors will be able to purchase books directly from the wish list which will be shipped directly to CPCBA with acknowledgement of the sender. Watch for more details on this in the next *Revelations*.

We welcome any and all submissions but ask that donors consult the wish list first as it will reflect the priorities for acquisition set jointly by the librarian, Brent, Christian Education and church leadership. For instance, we are a little thin in the areas of Mission, Young Adult,

History and audio / visual media. The library will, of course, accept titles not on the wish list. We ask that the title be submitted for review. The librarian, in consultation with the Christian Education committee, will verify that the book's subject matter fits with the Presbyterian, mission, and Christian living and education emphasis of the library.

The library is open whenever the church is open so please stop by, browse and expand your knowledge of Presbyterianism, devotion, evangelism or any of our other subject area. Please drop a note to or call the librarian with questions or suggestions.

Some initial entries in the wish list include:

The Reformation for Armchair Theologians,
Sunshine, Glenn S.—Westminster John Knox Press,
2005

(Note: There is a whole series of Armchair Theologians titles worthy of acquisition)

This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterians Affirm,
Plunkett, Stephen W.—Geneva Press, 2002

Purpose Driven Youth Ministry,
Fields, Doug—Zondervan, 1998

If you have questions or would like further information, call Dan Herchenroether, Librarian at 412-761-9965 or e-mail him at danherch@verizon.net.

All Eighth Graders Invited to Participate in Confirmation Class 2006 Kick-Off Retreat for Students—January 15 and 16

Adults Needed to Participate in the Confirmation Mentoring Program

Spring is the time for new life, new growth, and new challenges. Though it's early yet and chilly, our **8th Graders** will warm to all of these experiences during their time preparing for **Confirmation**.

8th Graders are invited to take part in this passage to maturity, but also a time of fun, play and study about who they are, what they believe, how they fit into the life of the church and how God fits into the rest of their lives. Look for a letter in your mailbox.

We're beginning the year with a wonderful retreat for all Confirmands.

Our first meeting for all 8th graders AND their parents is Sunday, January 15th at 11:30 a.m. at the church. Lunch is provided.

Following the meeting, kids and staff will depart for Camp Crestfield for an overnight retreat. (Monday is Martin Luther King day and no school.)

YES we will once again incorporate the popular **Mentoring** program into the Confirmation experience. Any member of the church is eligible to be a Mentor, no Bible or Theological genius required. Watch for info on how to sign up in January. Please feel free to contact Pastor Brent Dugan, Todd Tracy or Melanie Hughes-Holcomb at 412-761-1233 with any questions.



A Confession of a Choir Member

-by Bertie Werley

So—I'm not particularly well-read in religious materials for a Christian of my age--after all, I *was* raised in the Catholic Church at a time when it certainly didn't encourage the reading of the Bible (“Just listen to what the priest says and that's all you need to know”.) And I'm sure I don't have the gift of leading a group in prayer--at least, I've yet to find that voice.

But the voice I have found is the voice of prayer in song. Every week I feel so blessed to be in your midst, and I wonder if there is any greater expression of joy than lifting our voices together in such glorious harmonies. Sometimes I just listen, and the beauty and fullness and love often overwhelms me. (Oh yeah—that's it--when I miss a note or mess up the timing, it's not because I don't know what I'm doing. . . it's that I'm overwhelmed!) And each and every week I leave here a little refreshed, a little renewed and a little more buoyant to face the pace of life beyond this holy space.

So I confess that I receive from you so much more than I give, and I thank you all for this wondrous gift of joyful praise.

*Wouldn't you like to be part of such a fellowship?
You can! Let us welcome you to the Chancel Choir.
We meet at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights.*

**Special Sunday of Music in Advent
Sunday, December 11—10:30 a.m.**

Every Sunday at CPCBA is “music Sunday,” but December 11th promises to be a very special morning in the life of our church.

Please join us for “Lessons and Carols” as we welcome the Christmas season with scripture, junior choir, adult choir, bells, solos, and carol-singing.

All of the church's musicians are working hard to provide you with music that will keep you mindful throughout the season that celebrating the birth of Jesus is just as relevant today as it was two-thousand years ago. Please join us.

**David Anderson and Barbara McKelway to
Play at Assumption Church in Bellevue
Sunday, December 11—3:00 p.m.**

David Anderson and Barbara McKelway are performing in a special choral music program at Church of the Assumption in Bellevue on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. Included in the program is a portion of the *Christmas Oratorio* of Johann Sebastian Bach.

David is playing trumpet in the orchestra, and Barbara is the organist. The director is Neil Stahurski, Music Director at Assumption Church.

Community Presbyterian Church of Ben Avon Directory

Pastor	Brent Dugan
Christian Education Director	Melanie Hughes-Holcomb
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries	Todd Tracy
Music Director	David Anderson
Organist	Barbara McKelway
Administrative Assistant	Mary Susan Anderson
Hostess	Claire Wilwohl
Maintenance Manager	Don Evanochko
Clerk of Session	Jane DeSimone
Treasurer	Barbara Barcousky
Trustees, President	Linda Root
Deacons, Chair	Nancy Hamilton
Junior Church, Coordinator	Jan Davis
Wooden Ladder Preschool	Brenda Mellon
Financial Secretaries:	John Ferguson
.....	Steve Fockler
.....	Royce Rice
.....	Dick Schneider
Parish Nurse	Nan Duff
Web Masters	Susan and Marty Houser

Committee Chairs:

Christian Education	Ken DiNino
Fellowship & Evangelism	Judy Fockler
Nominating Committee	Judy Fockler
Outreach	Joyce Grater
Planning	Brian Jensen
Stewardship & Finance	John Buchanan
Worship	Linda Root

Deacon Contacts

(for meal assistance, transportation, grief support, etc.)
Jody Jackson at 412-364-8573

Deacons Visitation Ministry

Frank Somerville at 412931-6584

(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 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.

**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



Advent and Christmas Calendar

Sunday, November 27th

- 10:30 a.m.—Lighting of the First Advent Candle and Baptism

Sunday, December 4th

- 10:30 a.m.—Lighting of the Second Advent Candle and Baptism
- 11:30 a.m.—Fellowship Hour hosted by the Session

Sunday, December 11th—*Bring Your Neighbor Sunday!*

- 10:30 a.m.—Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols; Lighting of the Third Advent Candle
- 6:00 p.m.—Community Christmas Festival until 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18th

- 10:30 a.m.—Children's Christmas Pageant; Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle
(Children will gather for costuming and rehearsal at 9:15 a.m.)

Saturday, December 24th—Christmas Eve

- 7:00 p.m.—Family Service . . . especially for the kids
- 9:00 p.m.—Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th

- 10:30 a.m.—Carols and Communion
- (No 8:30 AM service on December 25th)

Sunday, January 1st

- Christ leads us into the New Year, 10:30 a.m..
- (No 8:30 AM service on January 1st.)

